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五拜禮

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BIRTHS.

On February 14, 1909, at Chateau du Mont D'Ouel, Gabrielle Dordogne Françoise, the wife of Louis Roeder (Commissioner of Customs, retired), of a son.—J.M.

On March 7, 1909, at Dunmow, Essex, wife of E. T. Bond, formerly of Canton, daughter.

BELLIOS.—On April 8th, at Green Park House, 134 Piccadilly, London, the wife of Mr. R. E. Bellios, of a son. (By Wire).

MARRIAGES.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, HERMANN ARLT, eldest son of Carl Arlt, of Breslau, to Valerie MARGARET, daughter of the late Professor Peter Robolcovy of Budapest.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, CLAUDE J. G., and son of the late John Hill, of Manchester, to MARION ETTIE, 3rd daughter of the late Richard Forster, of Durham, and Mrs. Forster, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

On the 11th April, at St. Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, by the Rev. C. E. Thompson, B.A., MARY WILKINSON, daughter of the late William Mitchell, of Glasgow, to THOMAS, son of the late William Layland, of Glasgow.

DEATHS.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, HARRY HENDERSON OWLER, of Panick, near Glasgow, aged 55 years, "Electrician with the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co. Ltd."

On April 6, 1909, at Shanghai, HUI PA, PANG, aged 21 months, dearly beloved daughter of Captain and Mrs. F. Lloyd.

The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1909.

CHINESE RAILWAYS AND FINANCES.

(16th April.)

Whether the representatives of Great Britain through the British Minister at Peking with reference to the proposed German loan for the purpose of constructing a section of the Canton-Hankow line will bear fruit is still open to question, but there is reason to believe that British investors in Chinese railway stocks are becoming chary of entrusting their money unless the Chinese Imperial Government is prepared to give ample security in return. This feeling of doubt with regard to the capability of the Chinese Government to carry the responsibilities she has undertaken in this direction is emphasised by the Peking correspondent of the London Times who recently sent a somewhat alarmist report to his paper regarding the Shanghai-Hanchow-Ningpo railway. It must not be forgotten that Dr. Morrison is apt to indulge in gloomy prognostications when things are dull and equally inclined to indulge in optimistic reviews when the mood is upon him. As the result of an inspection of the line in question Dr. Morrison presented serious charges of incompetence against the constructors and suggested that the capital supplied by British investors was being squandered. Then there was a statement issued by the Board of Communications giving the results of the working of the principal lines, shown a profit on the working of most of the northern lines but a considerable loss on others, more especially the Shanghai-Nanking Railway. There have also been reports that the different sections of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway are not making equally satisfactory progress, and lately the Associate Director of that railway was in Shanghai en route to Peking to make an inspection of the Southern section of the line, while the statement was made a few days ago that the Viceroy has appointed an able British engineer to make an inspection of the Shanghai-Hanchow-Ningpo Railway, with a view to ascertaining whether or not Dr. Morrison's criticisms are well-founded. As a Northern contemporary points out there is reason to believe that all this activity is due to the operations of rival syndicates and that, in consequence, the reports are not always to be implicitly trusted.

A writer in the *Mercury* of Shanghai holds that the heavy loss reported in the working of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway during the past year proves that the fact that a line has been splendidly constructed and supplied with irreplaceable rolling stock is not sufficient to ensure its being run on a paying basis. It must be well managed, which no doubt the Shanghai-Nanking line is, and besides be able to secure profitable traffic, which apparently the Shanghai-Nanking line cannot do, notwithstanding the fact that it traverses one of the richest districts of China. The Chinese Government, however, seems to be awakening to the fact that all is not well with the railway, as it is announced in a native telegram from Peking that the Board of Communications intends to send a high official to investigate, along with the Governor of Kiangsu, into the causes of the heavy loss incurred in the year's working of the line, and mention is made of revising the freight regulations. In this connection the *Peking and Tientsin Times* has recently published a suggestive article dealing with the financial position of Chinese railways, with special reference to the Canton-Hankow section of the grand trunk line. It is well understood, says our contemporary, that China is at present negotiating a loan of some four millions sterling, in order to finance the construction of four hundred miles of the railway between Hankow and Canton. Her chances of success, however, can hardly be rated very highly, for several reasons: must militate against her in the judgment of British financiers. The Chinese Government has no reputation for efficiency in constructional undertakings of this kind. The Imperial Chinese Revenue is very inadequate under present conditions, and its figures demonstrate how utterly inadequate that Revenue is as security for a loan. The present foreign debt of China amounts to £145,000,000, which has been almost entirely contracted within the last thirteen years. To pay the interest on that debt a sum of seven and a half millions is required, of which it is estimated that productive works supply about a million. The charge on the Imperial Revenue is, therefore, six-and-a-half millions sterling to provide with the revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs and part of the Provincial revenues are hypothecated; and there remains but a balance of some six millions sterling to meet the purposes of the ordinary expenditure. That sum is obviously insufficient even to meet executive expenses, and it is notorious that additional money has to be scraped together each year in order to make good the deficit. Nor does it appear that the revenue can be expanded; and in these circumstances, it is very doubtful whether China can give the

requisite security for the large loan that is required. The true policy, of course, says the London *Globe*, of March 4, is to place the contract for building the line with European engineers, in which case the work would be done more cheaply, more efficiently and without any financial difficulty. So far our contemporaries. From the Hongkong reader's standpoint all these things have been said before and will in all likelihood be repeated in the near future. But if China's ability to offer the necessary security to those able and willing to lend loans for constructional purposes is so inadequate why all this fuss over the question whether Germany or Great Britain be allowed to undertake the work? The fact seems to be that the home and foreign press is being manipulated by financial speculators who are well aware that China is in a position to offer all the security required, and who are only seeking to deflect the attention of gullible investors from the real issues at stake. Great Britain has a perfect right to demand that China should observe to the letter her treaty obligations but beyond that she cannot go, just as she is unable to compel China to accept proffered capital even if it is at a lower rate and more favourable than that offered by other Powers. The whole subject resolves itself into a diplomatic tangle which it seems hardly possible to unravel at the moment, and the probability is that we shall hear of negotiations taking place over the question for years to come. Meanwhile China has no difficulty in getting the money she requires for the construction of new railways in the Middle Kingdom, and that, after all, is the main issue from the point of view of those concerned with the real interests of the Empire, and its prosperity and advancement in the path of progress.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMPRADORE SYSTEM.

The question whether European merchants trading in China can succeed in doing business without the interposition of the compradore is once more agitating a section of the foreigners in Tientsin, with the usual result. It is contended that if every European assistant were required to possess a fluent colloquial understanding of the Chinese language the time would speedily arrive when the services of the compradore could be dispensed with and foreign traders would be in a position to deal direct with the Chinese-buyer. To those who have given a modicum of study to this question the great fallacy underlying all such propositions is apparent. It seems to be assumed that immediately a foreigner is staffed by assistants of linguistic ability the ordinary Chinese dealer would be content to conduct all his trade operations through the European staff, and that the unfortunate compradore would be relegated to outer darkness. It seems to be forgotten that the Chinese people are becoming more and more averse to the idea of granting foreigners greater facilities of business intercourse than they already possess. In many cases it is extremely probable that the compradore's department is the real bulwark of a foreign firm engaged in Chinese trade, and that were it not for his attachment to the firm with which he may be associated and his general integrity and comparative disinterestedness the trade dealings of many foreign houses would languish and finally disappear. The Chinese are no longer to be regarded as nomadic, incapable of looking after their own interests. They are as alive to the possibilities of trade as any foreign firm, whether it be conducted by British, German, American or Japanese merchants and the elimination of the compradore would only induce Chinese syndicates to spring into being and absorb the trade which is now handled by European houses through the medium of the compradore and his staff. Moreover, the compradore has the business of foreign markets at his finger ends; he has painfully and laboriously acquired the most intimate knowledge of and acquaintance with the methods of European middlemen, and that knowledge would immediately be placed at the disposal of his compatriots when it was not utilised by himself—were he dismissed as an unnecessary incubus. Who that lives in the Far East believes for a moment that he would be content to be snuffed out as a burden and a nuisance without making any effort at retaliation? Who can claim that foreign trade in China is not, on the whole, admirably served by the compradores, with their myriad interests and wide sympathy with those of their fellow-subjects with whom they have commercial connection? Not the great business firms established in China, apparently, otherwise why this apathy when the question of doing away with the compradore system is mooted. It is all very well for a Blackburn Chamber of Commerce to say that young Englishmen who have an inclination to engage as assistants in British houses in China should learn the Chinese language. No doubt that is so, and such a knowledge in addition to their stock in trade would do them good to help to modify that ineffable conceit which is the hall-mark of the great majority of foreigners when they come into contact with Chinese dealers. But who, with any appreciation of the situation, will go farther and say that it will result in the relations between foreign traders and Chinese dealers being improved to such an extent that the compradore will become a virtual curiosity? The Blackburn Chamber of Commerce said—"Speaking generally of foreign merchants, unless they are going to do more in the future than they are doing at present, they will have to go, and many of them at home ought to send out agents who thoroughly understand their business

and who must learn to speak the Chinese language"; and again: "It is absolutely certain that an up-country buyer, because of his ignorance of any foreign language, is compelled to do business through the compradore which means that it must be done on the gentleman's terms or not at all. The merchant is no longer a merchant but simply the agent for the compradore, the latter doing all the work—finding customers, selling to them, and guaranteeing the accounts. This position has gradually grown out of the easy-going habits of the merchants and through their inability to speak Chinese." All that bundle of platitudes makes a very fine showing, but it does not prove that the British seller were to operate without the assistance of a Chinese compradore he would be any the more successful. The fact is that the compradore is an institution which has grown up in the East, and it is not to be eradicated by any foregone conclusion of nature. One correspondent who ridicules the assertion that the compradore can be abolished remarks: "I would like to emphasise the point that unless a man has a formal and proper introduction to Chinese merchants it is considered absolute rudeness and a breach of etiquette to attempt dealing direct for which you are sure to be snubbed and treated with contumely. This is a view which is not sufficiently realised by those who condemn the system. China, Chinese customs and Chinese business methods must be considered when dealing in China, and if you don't know or understand them my opinion is stick to your compradore always or you will be landed in an unenviable abyss of claims, etc." The attempt at direct dealing, going up country with your own piece goods, etc., has been tried off and on for years by Britons speaking Chinese; it has never proved successful. Your take cargo 300 or 1,500 miles from Shanghai and the Chinese dealers of those districts will leave you alone, a derelict, virtually without business or occupation and the question remains how long can any one wait unless he is a Chinaman? Again there is no money in any of these districts and you must therefore accept native bank orders and you must be a Chinaman to know whether the bank is sound or that some unaccountable is not at work. To sum up the whole matter it is madness for traders to go up country whilst the financial conditions remain unaltered or until the banking and currency are put on a satisfactory basis. It is losing the substance in a vain attempt to achieve the impossible. There we may allow the matter to rest, confident that if the leading banks, shipping companies and industrial undertakings find it advantageous to retain the services of a compradore and his staff a drastic measure such as that implied in the assertions of those who know little or nothing of the actual conditions is wholly out of the question and a merely visionary project which would probably result in the general decay of foreign trade with the Chinese dealers.

CHINESE COMPRADORES.

(13th April.)

In reference to our leading article on Saturday on the subject of the compradore system, it is interesting to note what a contributor to the Shanghai *China Gazette*, who signs himself "Cosmos," has to say. He writes:—"Referring to the subject of compradore is generally, and to the decline, or so-called decline, of the Chinese commercial community as a class, reference to which has on recent occasions been made in the columns of the *China Gazette*, I beg to say that while I agree in the main with the sentiments expressed in recent leaders to the effect that the present-day compradores and merchants are not the soul of honour, I am not altogether inclined to agree with you that they are in this respect very much worse than their progenitors. Of course, I must admit that I know very little about the old time compradore whose word was as good as his bond, as his class, if they ever exist, were before my time, but I have had the pleasure of the acquaintance of some of the retired foreign merchants of those days, and while they have been able to set by a good store of this world's goods, in spite of a surprisingly colossal ignorance of things Chinese, I do not, simply going by that as a criterion, take everything they say for gospel truth. Really, I must laugh sometimes when I hear them say how they owe their fortune to the integrity and honesty of the compradore they employed. What they say is of course true, in this respect, at least. Living as strangers in a strange land, without attempting to learn anything about it; seldom, if ever going beyond the limits of the Foreign Settlements, they were quite content so long as their transactions brought them a profit; and making good profits was an easy matter in those days. Not, however, because the compradores and native merchants were honest, far from it. It was simply the lack of competition. If the compradore had been honest they would have reaped ten times the profit that they did. The other nine-tenths went to the compradore, and he kept up his bluff about this word and his bond, so beautifully that the old time foreigner was not able to detect it—which is not surprising, as he was generally an obtuse sort of a gentleman, and besides he was getting a good profit so he had no reason to be suspicious. But things are different now. Plums don't drop from the tree in these days while the merchant goes to sleep under it. It would be almost a paradox. If it were true that with the increase of reform in China, the moral tone of the Chinese community was declining, the

foreign merchant in these days to be successful must have at least a smattering knowledge of the Chinese and their country, and it is in the process of gaining this knowledge that he has to come to the conclusion that the present-day compradore is a degenerated product. But, although his knowledge is correct, the conclusion he draws is wrong. The latter-day compradore is not a degenerate. He is one of the same old brand. The only difference is that the present-day foreign trader has been getting on 'to him—as the Americans say."

MORE CLASS LEGISLATION IN HONGKONG.

(15th April.)

At the last meeting of the Sanitary Board an important resolution involving a distinct question of principle with regard to the rights of the Chinese community in Hongkong was introduced by Mr. Shelton Hooper, seconded by Dr. Fitzwilliams and passed by six votes to three, the minority including the President of the Board and the two Chinese representatives. On the face of it the resolution was of a most innocuous character, being merely to effect "That as the new cemetery bye-laws prohibit the burning of joss sticks and firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery it is desirable for the Government to select a new site and authorise a cemetery for the interment of bodies of persons of the Buddhist and other non-Christian faiths, and for whom no special cemetery have been provided—where it may be lawful for the practice of any rites and ceremonies pertaining to the religion of the deceased." In speaking to the motion thus set forth Mr. Hooper, who had evidently been well primed on the subject, delving into musty tomes and recalling bygone days, quite clearly showed that he anticipated opposition from the representatives of the Chinese ratepayers—who, after all, are no insignificant section of the population of this Colony—and went out of his way to obscure the real point at issue. He referred to "the flag," which is always a certain attraction and a source of mental myopia, the protection afforded all our fellow subjects, the justice meted out under the British constitution to all and sundry, and he even hinted at the glorious traditions of the past. If we assume the speaker to be a Burke or a Pitt such language is all very fine and large, but what it has to do with cemeteries we cannot pretend to understand. Incidentally, Mr. Hooper spoke of the desire of those professing the Buddhist religion to have a cemetery of their own where they might practise the rites and ceremonies according to their burial service, but he adduced no particulars to show that he had been given a mandate to plead for the followers of that or any other religion. What he did do was to envelop the question in such a misty haze of history, which was neither applicable nor interesting, as to obfuscate the vision of those members of the Board who failed to realise that they were battering away the unquestionable and inalienable rights of the Chinese born and bred in this Colony of Hongkong. Still further to avoid the issue, reference was made to the origin of the word "colonial" as applied to the public cemetery, as if a display of recrudite knowledge had anything to do with the matter, while Mr. Hewitt dwelt on the desire of the Government or somebody else to provide all denominations with special cemeteries, and twitted both Mr. Lau Chu Pak and Mr. Ho Kom Tong with speaking "a little bit off the line" whereas, to our way of thinking, they were the only persons who were exactly on the line. To begin with, it should be understood that this cannot be viewed as a party, racial or sectarian question; it is a matter which affects most of us but little in this life and for that reason we can approach it without bias or feeling. It is not even a question of cemeteries so much as it is one of general principle. We can come to view it from a purely disinterested point of view, although it is apparent that Dr. Fitzwilliams entirely failed to realise its import when he seconded the adoption of the motion. The Colonial or Protestant—or whatever fancy name anybody may wish to call it—the public cemetery of Hongkong is maintained out of the rates and taxes provided by the residents in the Colony. It is no more a private institution than the public gardens—only it is governed by rules and regulations consonant with decency and respect for the dead. Even the Protestants cannot claim it for their very own; it is the public burial place of Hongkong maintained by the public, or rather by the Government, which comes to the same thing, out of general revenue. No sect or body has a right to say that it has any particular claim on the domain, but so far as we can mix our all have an equal right to interment there. If the Roman Catholics and the Zoroastrians prefer to have cemeteries of their own which they maintain themselves under the laws of the Colony and subject to the supervision of the Government, then that is their own business. They interfere with nobody, ask nothing from the public purse, and seek only to act according to the tenets of their particular religion. That is as it should be, but when it comes to a question of the public cemetery the scene is changed, so to speak. If a number of individuals have a certain brand of religion and wish to practise last rites in God's Acre in their own particular fashion, and at the same time are prepared to pay for the privilege, well, there is nothing more to be said. This is a free or, at least, a comparatively free Colony and every resident has a right to his opinions so long as they do not conflict with law and order. But where the general public maintain a public burial place the

public have a perfect right to demand certain rights and privileges in connection with it, and to declare that no section of the community shall be exclusively favoured to the prejudice of the many. But that is exactly what the Sanitary Board and those who supported the resolution are seeking to do. They would exclude the Chinese from the right of burial in the public cemetery, even although the Chinese are perfectly willing to abide in the strictest sense by each and all of the regulations framed by a beneficent and paternal Government for the due observance of the proprieties at such places as public cemeteries. The fact of the matter is that this sort of petty municipal legislation is all of a piece with the policy of the Government in reserving special lands for the *bona fide* of the Colony. First they decreed that in life the Chinese should not live in the vicinity of the Peak and now in death the Chinese are not deemed fitting occupants of lairs in the public cemetery. The whole thing is so supremely ridiculous that it would be farcical if the subject did not preclude one from dealing in such a manner with a subject serious in itself and in the principle underlying the motive which appears to have given rise to the motion. As Mr. Lau Chu Pak in denouncing this latest example of class legislation remarked: "Those Chinese who made use of the Colonial cemetery were chiefly the British born; the British naturalised, the Christian converted and the Eurasian Chinese, and recently Japanese had also made use of it. As these people had already been admitted into the European paradise on earth, he thought it was scarcely fair to debar them from using the passage to the European paradise after death. The better class of Chinese who had made Hongkong their permanent home had not a decent cemetery in which to bury their dead, and the Chinese had to control in what were called Chinese cemeteries. Those cemeteries were simply tracts of barren land set apart by the Government for the burial of Chinese dead of any class. The Government referred to itself the right of resuming the land and ordering the remains to be exhumed and buried anywhere else as the Government might from time to time be pleased to direct. Fancy the outcry there would be among the elite if the remains of their predecessors were subject to removal at the whim and caprice of some insignificant official in a Government Department. That in itself should constitute a plea for the Chinese that they have a right of interment in the Colonial cemetery. As Mr. Ho Kom Tong very properly pointed out, from his inquiries, instances of cracker-firing in the Colonial cemetery had been few and far between. Even granting, for the sake of argument, that it was a general practice, there was already in existence the necessary legal machinery to regulate it, in order to reduce to a minimum the so-called objectionable observances, according to the orthodox rituals of those belonging to the Buddhist persuasion. There is the whole matter in a nutshell. Moreover, it was stated by the senior representative of the Chinese that the majority of Chinese and other citizens "belonged to no particular religious denomination" so that they could not likely injure the sentimental ideas of those who did profess a certain faith while they remained amongst the living. As we have already said the resolution to exclude Chinese from the public cemetery is on a par with the Peak Reservation scheme, and we can only add that we are astonished that Mr. Hooper should have been the one to father such unworthy progeny or that Dr. Fitzwilliams should have been found to act the part of the benign godparent. We trust, however, that the Governor-in-Council will veto the plan and accord our Chinese fellow subjects the undoubted rights to which they are plainly entitled.

CHINA'S CAPABILITIES.

Some writer in the *Shanghai Mercury* has been doing his utmost to malign the Chinese character and their ability. His trouble is about the "regeneration of a decadent race." It is astonishing in these circumstances to find that the Powers do not consider China either a backward country or one given to such foolish transactions as distinguish the poodipality of Bulgaria. The writer in question is most serious when he says: "The task is the task which China has set herself; the means are Chinese means. Few people have ever stopped to consider the magnitude of the work which China must accomplish before she can attain the object she has at heart, and of these few very many must doubt if there is even one who can claim either Chinese or Manchu descent. The task has been begun and its burdens assumed with no clear understanding of the impossibility of the labour, the complexity of the scheme, or the world-wide knowledge required for its successful achievement. Let there be light, is the native reformer's fiat, but it is altogether another question whether the concluding section of the sentence will read, 'and there was light.' Of course, it may be taken for granted that the author of such an effusion is none other than a disappointed individual—perhaps, we only suggest it as a reminiscence, a missionary. China, we are told, has to tackle two or three subjects, the first of which is law. The *West* now *terrible* first is referred to, but the unwritten law came not from the *mission* but from China herself. Even the American codex admits that. As the writer says of his points in talking it up, we are following Western custom, although of course the term does not apply in your sense, and more, since the introduction of printing, for the of the first thing to be committed to

There was a more or less complete selection of local maxims and maxims of judgment. "Unwritten Law," however, is strictly that of which no origin can be traced, as opposed to "Statute Law" of which we know the beginning and the end. Now China has a vast mass of such law, some of it extremely good and most of it (in theory) admirably suited to Chinese character and requirements. In theory only, he it remembered, for a very superficial acquaintance with Chinese proverbial lore is sufficient to show that between the excellence of a law and the excellence of its administration there is a gulf as wide as that between heaven and Hades. It is plain, therefore, that there is a double task before the Chinese in this connection. First they must convert their judges to justice, and secondly they must bring their heterogeneous mass of legal tradition to a modern code, and then collate it with an equally vast mass of western law, for that is what they have set out to do. How many of them have ever put foot within the law library of an up-to-date barrister or solicitor? How many of them know anything at all of the many specialists that there are in connection with western law? And have any of them, considered how many Chinese there are, fitted for such a task as the compilation of such a code? The hand of the layman can be deciphered there. And read the ridiculous similes—"If we turn to educational matters, the same difficulty confronts us. It is hardly too much to say that there is not a Chinaman alive who is competent to draw up a national scheme of education for the kindergarten to the university. There are many Chinese who have graduated from colleges and universities in England, America, and elsewhere, but that does not make them authorities on education any more than travelling by sea makes the captain of a ship a competent naval architect." Anybody can see the futility of such a remark. Fortunately the Chinese themselves are not obsessed by the idea of their own importance. Indeed the Chinese can see things clearly. Surely, the very fact that they send students at the Government expense to Europe and America is proof positive that their alleged decadence is a myth. Another thing: "It is probably unknown to China the extent to which the European nations have drawn upon each other for help in this respect. American development has been very largely built on the ability of the men she got from England. At this moment there are many English professors in her colleges. Now she is returning the benefit in a hundred different ways. The same is true of the relationship of England with other lands. We learnt silk work from France, and wool from Holland. In return we taught them railway construction and so on. Hundreds of other instances might be adduced. If then China were to civil in skilled assistance from the outside she might then make her start on the right lines, and everything depends on that. Japan did so. Without expert help we are convinced that China's efforts must end in failure, and then will be proved the truth of the prophecies of her enemies, that she is incapable of progress and must be treated accordingly." And this is the nation that is supposed to be decadent. Our only wonder is that the *Mercury* should have given publicity to such statements founded on sand and built on hypothesis. China was never more virile or vigorous than she is at the present time and to paraphrase an old saying, China will be China when nations (of the West) peter out.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

RUSSIA AND CHINA. BRITISH AND AMERICAN MEDIATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 7th April. The British and American Ministers in Peking are trying to bring about an amicable settlement (between the Russian authorities and Chinese) of the dispute (arising from the levying of municipal taxation) in Harbin.

H.E. TANG SHAO-YI.

HONoured BY THE KAISER. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 7th April. H.E. Tang Shao-yi, in a telegraphic message, reports that a German Order has been conferred upon him by H. I. M. the Kaiser. Imperial sanction has been granted the Special Envoy to wear the insignia of the Order.

JAPAN AND CHINA.

THE MANCHURIAN DIFFERENCES. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 7th April. The Grand Council in a representation has urged the Japanese Government to withdraw the guards from the Pakumien Railway. This Japanese Consul at Fengtien has declined to comply with the Chinese representation.

FOREIGN NEGOTIATIONS.

REPORTS TO BE PUBLISHED. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 7th April. The Waiwupu has decided that all negotiations with Foreign

Powers, unless of a confidential character, will be published for the information of the people.

RAILWAY DISBURSEMENTS TO BE MADE IN DOLLARS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 8th April. The Ministries of Finance and of Posts and Communications have come to an arrangement that all receipts and payments in connection with railways will be made in dollars.

THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT. HEAVY LOSS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 8th April. The losses of the Postal Department for last year are estimated at over 100,000 (2 taels).

NAVAL REORGANISATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 8th April. The Ministry of Finance has set aside Tls. 2,700,000 from the opium revenue towards the naval reorganisation scheme.

NA TUNG.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 8th April. The Prince Regent has directed Luk Chun-lum to call on Na Tung and inquire after his health, and at the same time to convey him a message that he is expected to resume his duties after the period of one hundred days from the death of his mother has expired.

VICEROY OF YUNNAN.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 8th April. H.E. Lei King-hei, Viceroy designate of Yunnan and Kweichow, is awaiting the arrival of Sik Liang at Peking (to-day) before having a farewell audience of the Prince Regent upon starting for his new post.

THE PRATAS ISLAND.

A VALUABLE POSSESSION. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 9th April. A telegraphic despatch has been received from Viceroy Chang Jen-chun by the Grand Council reporting that Pratas Island is very rich in products and that during the two years' occupation by the Japanese they must have exported several million dollars' worth of produce.

TIBET.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 9th April. The contemplated reforms in Tibet cannot be carried out for want of funds. The Grand Councilors, therefore, called upon the Senior Amban for a return of all the mines within the territory.

HANKOW-ICHANG RAILWAY.

JAPANESE ENGINEERS OFFERED. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 9th April. Mr. Ijima, the Japanese Minister in Peking, has asked Chang Chih-tung to engage Japanese engineers for the Hankow-Ichhang Railway.

SHANGHAI SETTLEMENT EXTENSION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 9th April. The President of the Waiwupu has memorialized in person that, in view of the advent of the next Hague Conference, special officials should be appointed with instructions to prepare the various matters for discussion at the conference.

CHINESE OPPOSITION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 12th April. A mass meeting of the Chinese was held yesterday at Ming Lun Tong (Hall) to oppose the extension of the foreign settlement in Shanghai.

It was decided to telegraph to the Waiwupu a brief report of the proceedings to be followed by the dispatch of a representative to Peking who will transmit viva voce a full report of the proceedings at the meeting.

H.E. SIK LIANG.

ARRIVAL AT Peking. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Hankow, 12th April. H.E. Sik Liang, ex-Viceroy of Yunnan, arrived at Hankow on the 11th inst., and intends leaving by special train for Peking on the 15th inst.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

THE GERMAN LOAN. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 12th April. The British Minister in Peking has telegraphed to the Foreign Office in London urging the British Government to demand an explanation from the German Government regarding the proposed loan for the Canton-Hankow Railway and to hold China responsible for the breach of the Chekiang Agreement.

IMPERIAL PALACE.

ENORMOUS TREASURE. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 12th April. By direction of the Empress Dowager, the Superintendent of Imperial Household has taken stock of the treasure in the Palace. He finds that there are Tls. 12,000,000 gold and Tls. 90,000,000 of silver.

CANTON-MACAO RAILWAY.

A JOINT AGREEMENT. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 13th April. The Portuguese Minister in Peking considers the cancellation of the Canton-Macao Railway agreement to be a loss of prestige to his country and has applied to the Waiwupu to have the line built as a joint Luso-Chinese undertaking.

EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY.

PRINCE REGENT'S INSTRUCTION. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 13th April. The Prince Regent has given instructions to the Waiwupu to take steps to abolish likin and extra-territorial rights.

PLAGUE IN PEKING.

A SEVERE OUTBREAK. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 13th April. There is a severe outbreak of plague in Peking. Several deaths have occurred in Luk Ching-lum's residence.

MINISTER TO BERLIN.

ARRIVAL OF CHINA'S REPRESENTATIVE. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 13th April. The Chinese Minister to Berlin has reported his arrival at the German capital on the 12th inst.

SHOWING THE FLAG.

CHINESE CRUISERS IN SINGAPORE. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 13th April. Wong Tai-ching, the officer in charge of the Chinese cruisers visiting the Southern Seas, reported his arrival at Singapore on the 12th inst.

EUNUCHS.

TO BE DONE AWAY WITH. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 13th April. The Prince Regent is of opinion that the decision for the abolition of the eunuch system must rest with the Empress Dowager.

YUNNAN VICEROYALTY.

THE VICEROY DESIGNATE. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 13th April. Let King-hei, Viceroy designate of Yunnan, will start for his new post at the end of the month after an interview with H.E. Sik Liang.

ASSAULT BY JUNKMEN.

PETROLEUM CO. S. S. AT ATTACKED. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Shanghai, 15th April. 11.45 a.m.

An attack was made, on Monday, near Qiansan, by junkmen, on the motor launch of the Asiatic Petroleum Co.

The launch, which was damaged, managed to escape. The passengers were not seriously hurt.

ANTI-OPIMUM CAMPAIGN.

MORE REGULATIONS. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 14th April. The Anti-Opium Commissioners have submitted another set of ten regulations dealing with the prohibition of the opium habit.

SHANGHAI SETTLEMENT EXTENSION.

FRESH APPLICATION. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 14th April. The various Foreign Ministers in Peking have again pressed their claim for an extension of the foreign settlement in Shanghai.

The Central Government is just as firm as ever in opposing it.

CHINA MERCHANTS S. N. CO.

CONTEMPLATED OFFICIAL CONTROL. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 14th April. As soon as Viceroy Young Shichang arrives in Peking, it is proposed by the Ministry of Posts and Communications to arrange for taking over the management of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co.

WEN TSUNG YAO.

ARRIVAL IN TIBET. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 14th April. Wen Tsung-yao, formerly foreign secretary to the Viceroy at Canton, now Junior Amban in Tibet, has reported his arrival in Tibet. He recommends that H.E. Chiu I-fong, Senior Amban, should be urged to proceed to Lhasa.

SIK LIANG.

ARRIVAL IN PEKING. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 14th April. H.E. Sik Liang, Viceroy designate of the Three Eastern Provinces, arrived in Peking yesterday.

PRINCE CHING.

ON SICK LEAVE. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 14th April. Prince Ching is on sick leave. His Highness is suffering from pains in the side.

ENGLAND AND SIAM.

THE RECENT TREATY. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 14th April. The Waiwupu regards the recently concluded Treaty between Great Britain and Siam as detrimental to the interests of Chinese residents in Siam, and proposes to take measures to improve the interests of Chinese subjects there.

FOREIGNERS IN MONGOLIA.

TRAVELLING PRIVILEGE CURTAILED. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 14th April. The Central Government has telegraphed instructions to the Three Eastern Provinces to prevent foreigners from travelling in Mongolia. Viceroy Hou Shi-chang has telegraphed in reply, stating that it would be difficult to comply with the instructions lest the friendly feelings of the Powers might be offended.

TANG SHAO-YI.

ARRIVAL IN ST. PETERSBURG. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 15th April. Tang Shao-yi has arrived in St. Petersburg, and will shortly return to China by the Trans-Siberian route.

EMPEROR KWANG-SU'S FUNERAL.

ACCOMMODATION OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 15th April.

The Waiwupu has telegraphed to Lord Li Ching-fong, Chinese Minister to the Court of St. James, to ascertain what was the treatment accorded to the representatives of the various Powers on the occasion of the funeral of the late Queen Victoria.

CHINESE CONSULATES.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT IN DUTCH POSSESSIONS. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 15th April. The Waiwupu has decided to establish consulates in Dutch colonial possessions and has telegraphed to the Chinese Minister to the Netherlands to inquire and report on the ports where it is deemed expedient consulates should be established.

PRINCE CHING.

RESUMES DUTIES. [By courtesy of the "Sheung Po."]

Peking, 15th April. Prince Ching, having returned from his leave of absence, has since resumed his duties.

CIVIL SERVICE CRICKET CLUB.

NEW PAVILION OPENED.

Yesterday afternoon, a very interesting ceremony was performed by H.E. the Governor, when a handsome pavilion, place of the match which had hitherto done duty for the pavilion of the Civil Service Cricket Club was opened under very auspicious conditions. There was a large gathering of members and friends who came to witness the ceremony. H.E. the Governor, who was accompanied by Capt. P. Mitchell Taylor, A.D.C., and Capt. Simon, Private Secretary, was met on arrival by Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, President of the Club. Among the guests were Hon. Mr. F. H. May (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Mrs. Chatham, Miss Chatham, Mr. J. G. Gompertz and Mrs. Gompertz, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Mr. R. O. Hutchison, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. Clark, Mr. Arratoon Seth, Mr. J. R. Wood, and Mr. Gray Scott.

On approaching the Club-house, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, His Excellency was presented with a silver key which bore the following words in engraved letters:—"Presented to His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., by the Civil Service Cricket Club, April 14th, 1900."

The President of the Club, addressing the Governor, said:—"Your Excellency, it is my agreeable duty to ask you to open the Civil Service Cricket Club pavilion which has been erected by the members by the money raised among themselves. The fact that they have succeeded in raising the sum to erect such a handsome building proves that they have very real interest in their Club, and I hope it may long continue. Your Excellency's presence will stimulate that interest. I would ask your Excellency to open the building."

His Excellency then replied as follows to the gathering:—"Ladies and Gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in opening this pavilion, and I wish success to the Civil Service Cricket Club. I hope you will witness from this charming pavilion many excellent matches, and that the Club will continue to prosper as it has done in the past. I have now very much pleasure in opening the building. Your Excellency then unlocked the door with the silver key which he was presented, after which, His Excellency asked those present to drink to the success of the Civil Service Cricket Club."

LADIES' RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

FIRST DAY'S SHOOTING.

We have been favoured by the hon. secretary of the Ladies' Rifle Association with the scores for the first day's shooting.

75 YARDS SCRATCH.

In this competition Mrs. Risland scored the highest number of marks with Miss F. Hoffman and Miss Beth, second and third places, respectively. The detailed scores are—

Mrs. Risland 51

Miss F. Hoffman 47

Miss Beth 45

Miss Shaw 43

Miss Hooper 41

Mrs. Shellim 39

Miss Chapman 37

Mrs. Gompertz 35

Mrs. Ormiston 33

Mrs. Bailey 31

Mrs. Worthington 29

Miss Nicholson 27

Miss M. Loureiro 25

Mrs. Bayard 23

Mrs. Scott-Harmon 21

Miss Wilkinson 19

In the 75 yds. Handicap, Mrs. Murray (35) scored the highest number of points, with Mrs. Bailey (32) second, and Mrs. Risland (31) 3rd. The full results are as follows.

Score H.C.P. Total.

Mrs. Murray 35 10 35

Mrs. Bailey 32 10 32

Mrs. Risland 31 10 31

Mrs. Chapman 27 10 27

Mrs. Bayard 23 10 23

Mrs. Worthington 21 10 21

Mrs. Hooper 19 10 19

Mrs. Shellim 17 10 17

Mrs. Wakenham 15 10 15

Mrs. Scott-Harmon 13 10 13

Mrs. Wilkinson 11 10 11

Mrs. Ormiston 9 10 9

Mrs. Bailey 7 10 7

Mrs. Hoffman 5 10 5

Mrs. Beth 3 10 3

Mrs. Shaw 1 10 1

Mrs. Hooper 0 10 0

Mrs. Shellim 0 10 0

Mrs. Chapman 0 10 0

Mrs. Gompertz 0 10 0

Mrs. Ormiston 0 10 0

Mrs. Bailey 0 10 0

Mrs. Hoffman 0 10 0

Mrs. Beth 0 10 0

Mrs. Shaw 0 10 0

Mrs. Hooper 0 10 0

Mrs. Shellim 0 10 0

Mrs. Chapman 0 10 0

Mrs. Gompertz 0 10 0

Mrs. Ormiston 0 10 0

Mrs. Bailey 0 10 0

Mrs. Hoffman 0 10 0

Mrs. Beth 0 10 0

Mrs. Shaw 0 10 0

Mrs. Hooper 0 10 0

Mrs. Shellim 0 10 0

Mrs. Chapman 0 10 0

Mrs. Gompertz 0 10 0

Mrs. Ormiston 0 10 0

Mrs. Bailey 0 10 0

Mrs. Hoffman 0 10 0

Mrs. Beth 0 10 0

Mrs. Shaw 0 10 0

Mrs. Hooper 0 10 0

Mrs. Shellim 0 10 0

Mrs. Chapman 0 10 0

Mrs. Gompertz 0 10 0

Mrs. Ormiston 0 10 0

Mrs. Bailey 0 10 0

Mrs. Hoffman 0 10 0

The Hongkong Telegraph.

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

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BIRTHS.

On February 12, 1909, at Chateau du Mont D'Orel, Cateau, Dordogne, France, the wife of Louis Rocher (Commissioner of Customs, retired), of a son—JEAN.

On March 7, 1909, at Dunmow, Essex, wife of E. T. BOND, formerly of Canton, daughter, BELILIOS—On April 8th, at Green Park House, 134 Piccadilly, London, the wife of Mr. R. E. BELILIOS, of a son. (By Wire).

MARRIAGES.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, HERMAN ARIZ, eldest son of Carl Ariz, of Brautau, to Valérie MARGARET, daughter of the late Professor Peter Bobocsov of Budapest.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, CLAUDE J. G., and son of the late John Hill, of Manchester, to MARION ERIK, 3rd daughter of the late Richard Forster of Durham, and Mrs. Forster, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

On the 14th April, at St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, by the Rev. O. E. Thompson, E. A. MAUD, WILKESMAN, daughter of the late William Wilkesman, of Hongkong, to Thomas, son of the late William Layland, of London.

DEATHS.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, LARRY HENDERSON OWLER, of Panick, near Glasgow, aged 35 years, "Electrician with the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd."

On April 6, 1909, at Shanghai, HILDA BEA, TRAM, aged 21 months, dearly beloved daughter of Captain and Mrs. F. Lloyd.

The Hongkong Telegraph

MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

ISSUED GRATIS TO SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1909.

CHINESE RAILWAYS AND FINANCES.

(16th April.)

Whether the representatives of Great Britain through the British Minister at Peking with reference to the proposed German loan for the purpose of constructing a section of the Canton-Hankow line will bear fruit is still open to question, but there is reason to believe that British investors in Chinese railway stocks are becoming chary of entrusting their money unless the Chinese Imperial Government is prepared to give ample security in return. This feeling of doubt with regard to the capability of the Chinese Government to carry the responsibilities she has undertaken in this direction is emphasised by the Peking correspondent of the London Times who recently sent a somewhat alarmist report to his paper regarding the Shanghai-Hankow-Ningpo railway. It must not be forgotten that Dr. Morrison is apt to indulge in gloomy prognostications when things are dull and equally inclined to indulge in optimistic reviews when the mood is upon him. As the result of an inspection of the line in question Dr. Morrison presented serious charges of incompetence against the constructors and suggested that the capital supplied by British investors was being squandered. Then there was a statement issued by the Board of Communications giving the results of the working of the principal lines, shown a profit on the working of most of the northern lines but a considerable loss on others, more especially the Shanghai-Nanking Railway. There have also been reports that the different sections of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway are not making equally satisfactory progress, and lately the Associate Director of that railway was in Shanghai en route to Pukow to make an inspection of the Southern section of the line, while the statement was made a few days ago that the Viceroy has appointed an able British engineer to make an inspection of the Shanghai-Hankow-Ningpo Railway, with a view to ascertaining whether or not Dr. Morrison's criticisms are well-founded. As a Northern contemporary points out there is reason to believe that all this activity is due to the operations of rival syndicates and that, in consequence, the reports are not always to be implicitly trusted. A writer in the Mercury of Shanghai holds that the heavy loss reported in the working of the Shanghai-Nanking Railway during the past year proves that the fact that a line has been splendidly constructed and supplied with irreplaceable rolling stock is not sufficient to ensure its being run on a paying basis. "It must be well managed, which no doubt the Shanghai-Nanking line is, and besides be able to secure profitable traffic, which apparently the Shanghai-Nanking line cannot do, notwithstanding the fact that it traverses one of the richest districts of China. The Chinese Government, however, seems to be awakening to the fact that all is not well with the railway, as it is announced in a native telegram from Peking that the Board of Communications intends to send a high official to investigate, along with the Governor of Kiangsu, into the causes of the heavy loss incurred in the year's working of the line, and mention is made of revising the freight regulations. In this connection the Peking and Tientsin Times has recently published a suggestive article dealing with the financial position of Chinese railways, with special reference to the Canton-Hankow section of the grand trunk line. It is well understood, says our contemporary, that China is at present negotiating a loan of some four millions sterling, in order to finance the construction of four hundred miles of the railway between Hankow and Canton. Per-chances of success, however, can hardly be rated very highly, for several reasons must militate against her in the judgment of British financiers. The Chinese Government has no reputation for efficiency in constructional undertakings of this kind. The Imperial Chinese Revenue is very inelastic under present conditions, and its figures demonstrate how utterly inadequate that Revenue is as security for a loan. The present foreign debt of China amounts to £185,000,000, which has been almost entirely contracted within the last thirteen years. To pay the interest on that debt a sum of seven and a half millions is required, of which it is estimated that productive works supply about a million. The charge on the Imperial Revenue is, therefore, six-and-a-half millions sterling, to provide which the revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs and part of the Provincial revenues are hypothecated—and there remains but a balance of some six millions sterling to meet the purposes of the ordinary expenditure. That sum is obviously insufficient even to meet executive expenses; and it is notorious that additional money has to be scraped together each year in order to make good the deficit. Nor does it appear that the revenue can be expanded—and in these circumstances it is very doubtful whether China can give the

required security for the large loan that is required. The true policy, of course, says the London Globe, of March 4, is to Europe the contract for building the line with European engineers, in which case the work would be done more cheaply, more efficiently and without any financial difficulty. So far our contemporaries. From the Hongkong reader's standpoint all these things have been said before and will in all likelihood be repeated in the near future. But if China's ability to offer the necessary security to those able and willing to lend loans for constructional purposes, is so inadequate why all this fuss over the question whether Germany or Great Britain be allowed to undertake the work? The fact seems to be that the home and foreign press is being manipulated by financial speculators who are well aware that China is in a position to offer all the security required, and who are only seeking to distract the attention of gullible investors from the real issues at stake. Great Britain has a perfect right to demand that China should observe to the letter her treaty obligations but beyond that she cannot go, just as she is unable to compel China to accept borrowed capital even if it is at a lower rate and more favourable than that offered by other Powers. The whole subject resolves itself into a hardy subject matter which it seems hardly possible to unravel at the moment, and the probability is that we shall hear of negotiations taking place over the question for years to come. Meanwhile China has no difficulty in getting the money she requires for the construction of new railways in the Middle Kingdom, and that, after all, is the main issue from the point of view of those concerned with the real interests of the Empire, and its prosperity and advancement in the path of progress.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COMPRADORE SYSTEM.

The question whether European merchants trading in China can succeed in doing business without the interposition of the compradore is once more agitating a section of the foreigners in Tientsin, with the usual result. It is contended that if every European assistant were required to possess a fluent colloquial understanding of the Chinese language the time would speedily arrive when the services of the compradore could be dispensed with and foreign traders would be in a position to deal direct with the Chinese buyer. To those who have given a modicum of study to this question the great fallacy underlying all such propositions is apparent. It seems to be assumed that immediately a foreigner is staffed by assistants of linguistic ability the ordinary Chinese dealer would be content to conduct all his trade operations through the European staff, and that the unfortunate compradore would be relegated to outer darkness. It seems to be forgotten that the Chinese people are becoming more and more averse to the idea of granting foreigners greater facilities of business intercourse than they already possess. In many cases it is extremely probable that the compradore's department is the real bulwark of a foreign firm engaged in Chinese trade, and that were it not for his attachment to the firm with which he may be associated and his general integrity and comparative disinterestedness the trade dealings of many foreign houses would languish and finally disappear. The Chinese are no longer to be regarded as nonentities, incapable of looking after their own interests. They are as alive to the possibilities of trade as any foreign firm, whether it be conducted by British, German, American or Japanese merchants and the elimination of the compradore would only induce Chinese syndicates to spring into being and absorb the trade which is now handled by European houses through the medium of the compradore and his staff. Moreover, the compradore has the business of foreign markets at his fingers' ends, he has painfully and laboriously acquired the most intimate knowledge of and acquaintance with the methods of European middlemen, and that knowledge would immediately be placed at the disposal of his compatriots when it was not utilised by himself—were he dismissed as an unnecessary incubus. Who that lives in the Far East believes for a moment that he would be content to be snuffed out—as a burden—and a nuisance—without making any effort at retaliation? Who can claim that foreign trade in China is not, on the whole, admirably served by the compradores, with their myriad interests and wide sympathy with those of their fellow-subjects with whom they have commercial connection? Not the great business firms established in China apparently, otherwise why this apathy when the question of doing away with the compradore system is mooted. It is all very well for a Blackburn Chamber of Commerce to say that young Englishmen have an inclination to engage assistants in British houses in China should learn the Chinese language. No doubt that is so; and such a knowledge in addition to their stock in trade would do them good to help to modify that ineffable conceit which is the mark of the great majority of foreign strip-lings when they come into contact with Chinese dealers. But who, with any appreciation of the situation, will go farther and say that it will result in the relations between foreign traders and Chinese dealers being improved to such an extent that the compradores will become a virtual curiosity? The Blackburn Chamber of Commerce said: "Speaking generally of foreign merchants, unless they are going to do more in the future than they are doing at present, they will have to go, and many factors at home ought to send out agents who thoroughly understand their business

and who must learn to speak the Chinese language"; and again: "It is absolutely certain that an up-country buyer, because of his ignorance of any foreign language, is compelled to do business through the compradore which means that it must be done on that gentleman's terms or not at all. The merchant is no longer a merchant but simply the agent for the compradore, the latter doing all the work—finding customers, selling to them, and guaranteeing the accounts. This position has gradually grown out of the easy-going habits of the merchants and through their inability to speak Chinese." All that bundle of platitudes makes a very fine showing, but it does not prove that if a British seller were to operate without the assistance of a Chinese compradore, he would be any the more successful. The fact is that the compradore is an institution which has grown out of the necessities of the situation, and unless some unforeseen cataclysm of nature eradicates his existence. One correspondent who ridicules the assertion that the compradores can be abolished remarks: "I would like to emphasise the point that unless a man has a formal and proper introduction to Chinese merchants it is considered absolute rudeness and a breach of etiquette to attempt dealing direct for which you are sure to be snubbed and treated with contumely. This is a view which is not sufficiently realised by those who condemn the system. China, Chinese customs and Chinese business methods must be considered when dealing in China, and if you don't know or understand them my opinion is sick to your compradore, always or you will be landed in an unfeeling abyss of claims, etc. The attempt at direct dealing, going up country with your own piece goods, etc., has been tried off and on for years by Britons speaking Chinese; it has never proved successful. You take cargo 500 or 1,500 miles from Shanghai and the Chinese dealers of those districts will leave you alone, a derelict, virtually without business or occupation and the question remains how long can any one wait unless he is a Chinaman? Again there is no money in any of these districts and you must therefore accept native bank orders and you must be a Chinaman to know whether the bank is sound or that some undecurrent is not at work. To sum up the whole matter it is madness for traders to go up country whilst the financial conditions remain unaltered or until the banking and currency are put on a satisfactory basis. It is losing the substance in a vain attempt to achieve the impossible." There we may allow the matter to rest, confident that if the leading banks, shipping companies and industrial undertakings find it advantageous to retain the services of a compradore and his staff a drastic measure such as that implied in the asseverations of those who know little or nothing of the actual conditions is wholly out of the question and a merely visionary project which would probably result in the general decay of foreign trade with the Chinese dealers.

CHINESE COMPRADORES.

(13th April.)

In reference to our leading article on Saturday on the subject of the compradore system, it is interesting to note that a contributor to the Shanghai China Gazette, who signs himself "Cosmos" has to say. He writes: "Referring to the subject of compradores generally, and to the decline, or so-called decline, of the Chinese commercial community as a class, reference to which has on recent occasions been made in the columns of the China Gazette, I beg to say that while I agree in the main with the sentiments expressed in recent leaders to the effect that the present-day compradores and merchants are not the soul of honour, I am not altogether inclined to agree with you that they are in this respect very much worse than their progenitors. Of course, I must admit that I know very little about the old time compradores whose word was as good as his bond, as his class, if they ever exist, were before my time, but I have had the pleasure of the acquaintance of some of the retired foreign merchants of those days, and while they have been able to set by a good store of this world's goods, in spite of a surprisingly colossal ignorance of things Chinese, I do not, simply going by that as a criterion, take anything they say for gospel truth. Really, I must laugh sometimes when I hear them say how they owe their fortune to the integrity and honesty of the compradore they employed. What they say is of course true, in this respect, at least. Living as strangers in a strange land, without attempting to learn anything about it; seldom, if ever going beyond the limits of the Foreign Settlements, they were quite content, so long as their transactions brought them a profit; and making good profits was an easy matter in those days. Not, however, because the compradores and native merchants were honest, far from it. It was simply the lack of competition. If their compradore had been honest they would have reaped ten times the profit that they did. The other nine-tenths went to the compradore, and he kept up his bluff about 'his word and his bond' so beautifully that the old-time foreigner was not able to detect it—which is not surprising, as he was generally an obtuse sort of a gentleman, and besides he was getting a good profit, so he had no reason to be suspicious. But things are different now. Plums don't drop from the tree in these days while the merchant goes to sleep under it. It would be almost a paradox if it were true that with the increase of Reform in China, the moral tone of the Chinese community were declining. The

foreign merchant in these days to be successful must have at least a smattering knowledge of the Chinese and their country, and it is in the process of gaining this knowledge that he has come to the conclusion that the present-day compradore is a degenerated product. But, although his knowledge is correct, the conclusion he draws is wrong. The latter-day compradore is not a degenerate. He is one of the same old brand. The only difference is that the present-day foreign trader has been 'getting on' to him—as the Americans say."

MORE CLASS LEGISLATION IN HONGKONG.

(15th April.)

At the last meeting of the Sanitary Board, an important resolution involving a distinct question of principle with regard to the rights of the Chinese community in Hongkong was introduced by Mr. Shelton Hooper, seconded by Dr. Fitzwilliams and passed by six votes to three, the minority including the President of the Board and the two Chinese representatives. On the face of it the resolution was of a most innocuous character, being merely to the effect "That as the new cemetery bye-laws prohibit the burning of joss sticks and firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery it is desirable for the Government to select a new site and authorise a cemetery for the interment of bodies of persons of the Buddhist and other non-Christian faiths, and for whom no special cemeteries have been provided—where it may be lawful for the practice of any rites and ceremonies pertaining to the religion of the deceased." In speaking to the motion thus set forth, Mr. Hooper, who had evidently been well primed on the subject, delving into musty tomes and recalling bygone days, quite clearly showed that he anticipated opposition from the representatives of the Chinese rate-payers—who, after all, are no insignificant section of the population of this Colony—and went out of his way to obscure the real point at issue. He referred to "the flag," which is always a certain attraction and a source of mental myopia, the protection afforded all our fellow subjects, the justice meted out under the British constitution to all and sundry, and he even hinted at the glorious traditions of the past. If we assume the speaker to be a Burke or a Pitt such language is all very fine and large but what it has to do with cemeteries we cannot pretend to understand. Incidentally, Mr. Hooper spoke of the desire of those professing the Buddhist religion to have a cemetery of their own where they might practise the rites and ceremonies according to their burial service, but he adduced no particulars to show that he had been given a mandate to plead for the followers of that or any other religion. What he did do was to enjoin the question in such a misty haze of history, which was neither applicable nor interesting, as to obfuscate the vision of those members of the Board who failed to realise that they were bartering away the unquestionable and irrefragable rights of the Chinese born and bred in this Colony of Hongkong. Still further to avoid the issue, reference was made to the origin of the word "colonial" as applied to the public cemetery, as if a display of recondite knowledge had anything to do with the matter, while Mr. Hewitt dwelt on the desire of the Government or somebody else to provide all denominations with special cemeteries, and twitted both Mr. Lau Chu Pak and Mr. Ho Kom Tong with speaking "a little bit off the line" whereas, to our way of thinking, they were the only persons who were exactly on the line. To begin with, it should be understood that this cannot be viewed as a party, racial or sectarian question; it is a matter which affects most of us but little, in this land and for that reason we can approach it without bias or feeling. It is not even a question of cemeteries so much as it is one of general principle. We can come to view it from a purely disinterested point of view, although it is apparent that Dr. Fitzwilliams entirely failed to realise its import when he seconded the adoption of the motion. The Colonial or Protestant—or whatever fancy name anybody may wish to call it—the public cemetery of Hongkong is maintained out of the rates and taxes provided by the residents in the Colony. It is no more a private institution than the public gardens—only it is governed by rules and regulations consonant with decency and respect for the dead. Even the Protestants cannot claim it for their very own; it is the public burial place of Hongkong maintained by the public, or rather by the Government, which comes to the same thing, out of general revenue. No sect or body has a right to say that it has any particular claim on the domain, but so far as we can make out all have an equal right to interment there. If the Roman Catholics and the Zoroastrians prefer to have cemeteries of their own which they maintain themselves under the laws of the Colony and subject to the supervision of the Government, then that is their own business. They interfere with nobody, seek nothing from the public purse, and seek only to act according to the tenets of their particular religion. That is as it should be, but when it comes to a question of the public cemetery the scene is changed, so to speak. A number of individuals have a certain brand of religion and wish to practise last rites in God's Acre in their own particular fashion and at the same time are prepared to pay for the privilege, well, there is nothing more to be said. This is a free, or, at least, a comparatively free Colony and every resident has a right to his opinions so long as they do not conflict with law and order. But where the general public maintain a public burial place, the

public have a perfect right to demand certain rights and privileges in connection with it, and to declare that no section of the community shall be exclusively favoured to the prejudice of the many. But that is exactly what the Sanitary Board and those who supported the resolution are seeking to do. They would exclude the Chinese from the right of burial in the public cemetery, even although the Chinese are perfectly willing to abide in the strictest sense by each and all of the regulations framed by a beneficent and paternal Government for the due observance of the proprieties at such places as public cemeteries. The fact of the matter is that this sort of petty municipal legislation is all of a piece with the policy of the Government in reserving special lands for the burial of the Colony. First they decreed that in life the Chinese should not live in the vicinity of the Peak and now in death the Chinese are not deemed fitting occupants of life in the public cemetery. The whole thing is so supremely ridiculous that it would be farcical if the subject did not preclude one from dealing in such a manner with a subject serious in itself and in the principle underlying the motive which appears to have given rise to the motion. As Mr. Lau Chu Pak in denouncing this latest example of class legislation remarked: "Those Chinese who made use of the Colonial cemetery were chiefly the British born, the British naturalised, the Christian converted, and the Eurasian Chinese, and recently Japanese had also made use of it. As these people had already been admitted into the European paradise on earth, he thought it was scarcely fair to debar them from using the passage to the European paradise in heaven. The better class of Chinese who had made Hongkong their permanent home had no decent cemetery in which to bury their dead, and the Chinese had no control in what were called Chinese cemeteries. Those cemeteries were simply tracts of barren land set apart by the Government for the burial of Chinese dead of any class. The Government resorted to itself the right of resuming the land and ordering the remains to be exhumed and buried anywhere else as the Government might from time to time be pleased to direct. Fancy the outcry there would be among the elite if the remains of their predecessors were subject to removal at the whim and caprice of some insignificant official in a Government Department. That in itself should constitute a plea for the Chinese that they have a right of interment in the Colonial cemetery. As Mr. Ho Kom Tong very properly pointed out, from his inquiries, instances of cracker-firing in the Colonial cemetery had been few and far between. Even granting, for the sake of argument, that it was a general practice, there was already in existence the necessary legal machinery to regulate it, in order to reduce to a minimum the so-called objectionable observance, according to the orthodox tenets of those belonging to the Buddhist persuasion." There is the whole matter in a nutshell. Moreover, it was stated by the senior representative of the Chinese that the majority of Chinese and other citizens "belonged to no particular religious denomination" so that they could not likely injure the sentimental ideas of those who did profess a certain faith while they remained amongst the living. As we have already said the resolution to exclude Chinese from the public cemetery is on a par with the Peak Reservation scheme, and we can only add that we are astonished that Mr. Hooper should have been the one to father such unworthy progeny or that Dr. Fitzwilliams should have been found to act the part of the benign godparent. We trust, however, that the Governor-in-Council will veto the plan and accord our Chinese fellow subjects the undoubted rights to which they are plainly entitled.

CHINA'S CAPABILITIES.

Some writer in the Shanghai Mercury has been doing his utmost to malign the Chinese character and their ability. His trouble is about the "regeneration of a decadent race." It is astonishing in these circumstances to find that the Powers do not consider China either a backward country or one given to such foolish transactions as disfiguring the principalities of Bulgaria. The writer in question is most serious when he says: "The task is the task which China has set herself; the means are Chinese means, few people have ever stopped to consider the magnitude of the work which China must accomplish before she can attain the object she has at heart and of these few very much doubt if there is even one who can claim either Chinese or Manchu descent. The task has been begun, and its burdens assumed with no clear understanding of the immensity of the labour, the complexity of the scheme, or the world-wide knowledge required for its successful achievement. Let there be light! Is the native reformer's fiat, but it is altogether another question whether the 'concluding section' of the sentence will read: 'and there was light.' Of course, it may be taken for granted that the author of such an educational none other than a disappointed individual—perhaps, we only suggest, a reminiscence, a missionary. China, we are told, has to tackle two or three subjects, the first of which is law. The law, as the writer cited is referred to, but the universal law came not from the Vatican but from China herself. Even the American codified admit that. As the writer says on this point: 'In calling it unwritten law, we are following western custom, although of course the term does not apply in one sense, and never has since the introduction of printing, for one of the first things to be committed to the

LADIES' NIGHT PROVE A HUGE SUCCESS.

The third and last part of the programme contained three excellent examples of legendary Chinese "boy" stories. The first was a trick, a Chinese "boy" shrewdly exploiting with his help for the success of the trick. The worthy Calistral betrayed decided signs of nervousness which, by the way, caused more amusement than the merits of the performance itself. During the progress of the trick, the "boy" was made to drop a watch, which consequently stopped and on being asked to pay the price of the article, it was clearly noticed that there was some doubt in his mind as to the genuineness of the demand. He was also accused of the theft of three similar articles and was highly annoyed to discover two of them dangling in front of his pockets and the third one in the middle of his back. The inexhaustible Bottle of wine was one of the best ordinary bottle of alcohol. By means of a single ordinary bottle, the juror supplied drinks which were as varied as they were numerous to a number of people in the auditorium. The bottle was then broken and a High priest, Almondade? A squealing pig emerged from inside, which was the cause of considerable consternation among those who had previously helped themselves to the contents of the inextinguishable bottle. The animal was then put in a pistol and Gopokadek (Lard)

The application of the new tariff appears to have imbued the Vladivostok Municipal Council with a very keen sense of its obligations to the Empire; for at a meeting held on March 15 it adopted by a majority of twenty-four votes to two a programme embodying numerous improvements. Amongst the proposed innovations are the construction of electric traction, electric light, waterworks, markets and improved slaughter-houses. A Municipal Bank and a Stock Exchange are also provided for and better schools and hospitals are to be established at the earliest possible opportunity. The Council has also been endeavouring to secure the Municipal Council has forwarded to the Home Government a petition asking for permission to issue Municipal Bonds. The entire cost is estimated at Rs. 6,325,000 divided in the following manner: waterworks, Rs. 2,500,000; electric traction, Rs. 1,500,000; Municipal Bank, Rs. 300,000 (Capital); Stock Exchange, Rs. 50,000; Schools, Hospital, Market and Slaughter-houses, Rs. 1,200,000. The balance of Rs. 1,500,000 is to be placed to reserve. The Municipal Council is said to be sanguine of securing the necessary consent of the Government, and it appears probable that the success of the enterprise will depend on this point. How far these schemes depend upon the success of the new tariff, however, it must be left to the future to decide. Vladivostok has now made a wide departure from its former policy and it will be interesting to see whether the high wall of tariff erected amongst the many comparatively free ports of the Far East will aid in its development, or lead to a shrinkage of trade. The outlook is encouraging, but perhaps the Vladivostok Municipal Council would be well-advised if it waited for some definite result before committing itself to such big undertakings. From the standpoint of Russia as a whole, the imposition of a tariff at Vladivostok, with the close union that it establishes between eastern and western dominions, seems to denote a definite renunciation of a forward and settled policy in the Far East. Such evidently is the opinion held at Vladivostok, and the ultimate results of that step will be awaited with the keenest interest. — *M. G. D. News.*

10th inst.

On the Sports Field

The following leading article is from the *N. C. D. News* of 6th Inst.—Although it w

A POLTAY dealer for the Central Market -
 fixed \$2 for unlawfully selling partridges during
 season. The probable period is before
 March and September and before August
 Marine Corps, etc.

ACTIVATION IN SHANGHAI

No questions being asked, the following resolutions were adopted:—

That the Balance Sheet and Accounts as presented be approved, and passed—proposed by Chairman and seconded by Mr. H. J. Suchs.

That Mr. H. J. Suchs be re-elected a director of the company—proposed by Mr. Kusch and seconded by Mr. Watson.

That Messrs. Lowe, Bingham and Mathews be elected auditors of the company for the year 1900—proposed by Mr. Watson and seconded by Mr. Scholder.

That the Chairman thank the members of the board for their attendance at the meeting, and inform them that the next meeting will be held on the 15th inst. at 8 o'clock.

DEFENDED

Following the above letter, a correspondent at Kientsing signing his name as "Szech," writes the following letter to the same paper:

Dear Sir:—I was greatly interested in the letter signed Ajax in your issue of this morning.

He is tackling a very hard and difficult problem, the abolition of the Comproderery. In the first place, it would, like to emphasize the point that unless a man has a formal and proper introduction to a Chinese merchant, it is equivalent to a "slight rudeness" and a breach of etiquette to attempt dealing direct for which you are sure to be snubbed and treated with contempt.

This is a view which is not sufficiently realized by those who condemn the system.

China, Chinese, customs and Chinese business methods must be considered when dealing in China, and if you do not know or understand them, my opinion is stick to your Comproderes. If you do not, you will be landed in an uncomfortable abyss of claims, etc.

The attempt at direct dealing, going up country with your own place goods, etc., has been tried off and on for years, by Britons speaking Chinese; it has never proved successful. You take cargo 500 or 1,500 miles from Shanghai and the Chinese dealers of those districts will leave you alone, in derelict, virtually without business or occupation and the question remains, how long can any one live unless he is a Cheoman? Again there is no money in any of these districts and you must therefore accept Native Bank Orders; and you must be a Cheoman to know whether the bank is sound or that some undercurrent is not at work.

To sum up the whole matter, it is inadvisable for traders to go up country without the backing and currency are put on a satisfactory basis. It is losing the substance in a vain attempt to achieve the impossible.

A SHANGHAI Cheoman named Oat, has been selected by the senior class at Yale University, which commences next year, as a member of the class. He is a native of the city, and is a member of the Chinese Club.

Joss Sticks in the Colonial Cemetery.

CHINESE DISABILITIES.

THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Board last Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Shelton Cooper, pursuant to notice, moved the following resolution:—That as the new Cemetery By-law prohibits the burning of joss sticks and firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery it is desirable for the Government to select a new site and authorise a cemetery for the interment of bodies of persons of the Buddhist faith where it may be lawful for the practice of such rites and ceremonies.

He said that before he would address the members, he wished to make an amendment and proposed a slight difference in the motion proposed, the words "and other non-Christian faiths and for whom no special provision has been made" being added between the words "Buddhist faith" and "where it may be lawful."

The amendment being agreed to, Mr. Cooper proceeded to say that, on the 13th October last, the Board passed a by-law whereby the burning of joss sticks and the firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery were prohibited. The by-law was carried in due course. At the time he proposed the resolution, he had not the least idea that it would inflict a hardship on any section of the community. He was under the impression that the practice of burning joss sticks only existed among the Chinese, and that it had been brought to his notice, conversely, that many Japanese were also being interred in the cemetery and they felt it a hardship that there was no provision made whereby they could observe their religious rites. It was the duty of every State to provide for the burial of its dead, and in an English Colony, they were only too pleased to provide cemeteries for the interment of any community. The speaker referred to an old Government proclamation which afforded facilities to all denominations to carry out their religious rites and also that time the Government had been carried out what it said in that proclamation. He felt sure that every member of the Board would support him in his resolution. He appealed to his Chinese colleagues to support him in the resolution of which he had given notice. They all realised how dear their religions were to them and they should not forget how dear other people's religion was to members of other persuasions. They could not deny that right to the dead of the Japanese or any other Buddhist community.

Dr. Fitzwilliams said that he felt sure that when the restrictions were proposed there was no idea that a hardship on any faith, but it was merely a matter which had been overlooked.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Sir, I have listened with great attention and interest to the able and eloquent speech made by the mover of the resolution. On the face of the resolution, which has been so ingeniously and carefully framed, as if, when adopted, it would benefit instead of depriving the non-Christian persons of their right, not only I but everybody who is not acquainted with the circumstances would give it his support. But in point of fact as it is aimed at curtailing the privileges, hitherto enjoyed by our Chinese and other fellow-citizens, the majority of whom are of the Buddhist faith, and the restriction of the restriction of Japanese emigration to America enforced by the Government, and the Chinese boycott in South China amounted altogether to about ¥400,000. In addition to this, the company was unable to obtain the amount of Government subsidy anticipated as the result of the distribution of the vessels over various lines. Repairs to steamers and the increase in the price of liquid (oil) fuel in consequence of the increased customs duty on mineral oil also involved the company in heavy additional expenditure. All these factors combined to create a loss of ¥87,566 on the working of the Company for the period under review.

At the conclusion of the chairman's speech, a shareholder pointed out that when the notice convening the general meeting was issued the report and balance-sheet for the last half-year were not distributed among the shareholders, only the profit and loss account being given. This was illegal, and the speaker moved that the general meeting be declared unlawful and invalid. The motion obtained support from many shareholders, and an excited discussion ensued. Mr. Need Kaitcho, one of the shareholders, eventually intervened and managed to secure the withdrawal of the motion.

A number of questions were then raised regarding the loss of more than ¥800,000. Mr. Asano, the President, explaining the deficit, said that the loss included ¥639,000, expenses for investigations relative to the opening of the South American service during the last period; ¥121,865, interest on the purchase price of the *Tsuyu-maru* and *Chiyu-maru*; and the increased office expenses.

Some of the shareholders considered it strange that the office expenses should have increased in a period of trade depression, and demanded some further explanation.

Mr. Asano explained that in these expenses was included an item of ¥20,000, the cost of his journey to Europe and America in order to raise loans, and another item of about ¥10,000 debited to the entertainment of journalists in the two continents. He added that a Government subsidy of ¥600,000 would be obtained for the South American service, and that a revival of activity in the shipping trade was now to be seen, which would bring in more revenue to the company. It would then be possible for the company to earn a reasonable profit. He hoped that the loss now under review of over ¥800,000 would be made good during the coming two years, and that the company would be able to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the preferential shares and 6 per cent. on ordinary shares from the first half of 1901-12.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak has said that the Colonial Cemetery is not consecrated ground, and as the Colonial by-laws provide against fireworks within "God's acre" there is no danger of the Chinese, or of the Japanese for that matter, resorting to the Cemetery of all places, to indulge in pyrotechnic display. I am well aware that in this British Colony equal opportunities will be accorded to all—in life as in death—and that fundamental principle should determine the rejection of the motion before the meeting.

Mr. E. A. Hewitt said that, personally, he would rather not refer to the matter at all, but the question having been raised, it was but right to proceed with it. He thought Mr. Shelton Cooper's proposal perfectly reasonable. For a great many years, the Colony had different cemeteries—Protestant, Roman Catholic, Parsee, Mohammedan, etc. He thought it perfectly reasonable that the Colony should provide a cemetery for the bulk of the Chinese. Personally, he had no views on the subject at all. He could quite conceive that a great many people—Protestant or Catholic—were against rites other than their own in their cemeteries. In order to do justice to all, the speaker suggested that cemeteries should be provided where persons of Japanese or Chinese persuasions could carry out their rites without in any way burdening the feelings of a second party. His remarks, the speaker argued, were not intended to cast any aspersion or reflection on, or draw any distinction between the Asiatics and Occidentals. The speaker's object was to mete out even justice to all, by which a great source of sorrow would be removed.

Mr. Shelton Cooper said that he wished to refer to one or two points in regard to which Mr. Lau Chu Pak was in error. The speaker referred to an old Treaty book dated 1866. The words "Colonial Cemetery" were first applied by the Church. He directed attention to Mr. Lau Chu Pak's claim that any person, no matter of whatever denomination, can be lawfully buried in the Colonial Cemetery. Mr. Cooper said that the point should be carried to a logical conclusion and remarked that if everybody were to be buried in the Colonial Cemetery a new cemetery would have to be provided every week.

The resolution as amended was ultimately carried by a majority of six to three, the H.S.D. (Mr. R. O. Hutchison) being in favour of the two Chinese members' views.

THE TOYO KISEN KAISHA.

A STORMY GENERAL MEETING.

CHAIRMAN'S EXPLANATION OF DEFICIT.

As already mentioned, the result of the working of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha for the last half-year showed a deficit of about ¥800,000. It is not surprising to learn, therefore, that the general meeting of the company on the 30th ultimo was a stormy one.

Mr. Asano, President of the company, who addressed the shareholders, said that the result of the working of the company for the last half-year was bad beyond precedent, but this was due to nothing else than the depression of the shipping trade prevailing throughout the world. The decrease in the revenue of the company resulting from the falling off in cargo for the particular religious denomination whatever may sympathise with the resolution, I should not allow sentiment to carry me beyond duty. On their behalf, I beg, therefore, to oppose it. In doing so I abstain from criticising the many points raised in Mr. Cooper's speech, but will simply state the views of those whom I represent and ask members to consider them with an unbiased mind and form their decision according to justice and fair play. The Colonial Cemetery, as the name implies, is open to every resident in this Colony irrespective of nationality, and the restriction of the restriction of Japanese emigration to America enforced by the Government, and the Chinese boycott in South China amounted altogether to about ¥400,000. In addition to this, the company was unable to obtain the amount of Government subsidy anticipated as the result of the distribution of the vessels over various lines. Repairs to steamers and the increase in the price of liquid (oil) fuel in consequence of the increased customs duty on mineral oil also involved the company in heavy additional expenditure. All these factors combined to create a loss of ¥87,566 on the working of the Company for the period under review.

At the conclusion of the chairman's speech, a shareholder pointed out that when the notice convening the general meeting was issued the report and balance-sheet for the last half-year were not distributed among the shareholders, only the profit and loss account being given. This was illegal, and the speaker moved that the general meeting be declared unlawful and invalid. The motion obtained support from many shareholders, and an excited discussion ensued. Mr. Need Kaitcho, one of the shareholders, eventually intervened and managed to secure the withdrawal of the motion.

A number of questions were then raised regarding the loss of more than ¥800,000. Mr. Asano, the President, explaining the deficit, said that the loss included ¥639,000, expenses for investigations relative to the opening of the South American service during the last period; ¥121,865, interest on the purchase price of the *Tsuyu-maru* and *Chiyu-maru*; and the increased office expenses.

Some of the shareholders considered it strange that the office expenses should have increased in a period of trade depression, and demanded some further explanation.

Mr. Asano explained that in these expenses was included an item of ¥20,000, the cost of his journey to Europe and America in order to raise loans, and another item of about ¥10,000 debited to the entertainment of journalists in the two continents. He added that a Government subsidy of ¥600,000 would be obtained for the South American service, and that a revival of activity in the shipping trade was now to be seen, which would bring in more revenue to the company. It would then be possible for the company to earn a reasonable profit. He hoped that the loss now under review of over ¥800,000 would be made good during the coming two years, and that the company would be able to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on the preferential shares and 6 per cent. on ordinary shares from the first half of 1901-12.

In reply to a further question, Mr. Asano stated that no additional call would be made on the preferential shares, provided the repayment of the temporary loan now outstanding was not demanded.

A question was raised regarding the commission paid on steamers built or purchased. On this point discussion rose to such a point that eventually a motion was made to appoint a committee to inquire into the internal affairs of the company. After strenuous efforts on the part of Mr. Yamanaka Rinsuke the report and accounts were adopted and the meeting rose. The profit and loss account is as follows:—

Total revenue, ¥1,851,137
Total expenditure, ¥2,728,703
Loss, ¥877,566
—Japan Chronicle.

LOSITANO RECREATION CLUB.

ANNUAL ATHLETIC MEETING.

President—Mr. J. L. Leiria; Vice-President—Mr. A. G. da Rocha; Hon. Secretary—Mr. P. M. Remedios; Hon. Treasurer—Mr. A. V. Barros; Judges—Mr. Leo d'Almeida e Castro; Mr. J. C. Barretto; Mr. D. P. J. Lopes; Mr. J. D. Osmund; Mr. C. M. P. Remedios; Mr. P. da Rosa; Mr. M. E. da Silva; Referee—Mr. C. M. C. Ribeiro; Handicappers—Mr. C. M. S. Alves; Mr. A. G. da Rocha; Mr. A. J. C. V. de Roca.

Starters—Mr. A. E. S. Alves and Mr. J. M. V. Remedios; Time-keepers—Mr. C. M. S. Alves and Mr. J. O. Remedios; Clerks of the Course—Mr. J. M. Brito and Mr. C. F. Franco; Committee—Mr. A. S. Alves; Mr. J. M. Alves; Mr. F. J. Barreto; Mr. J. M. Carvalho; Mr. C. M. Castro; Mr. B. N. Cunha; Mr. E. J. Figueiredo; Mr. E. J. Noronha; Mr. A. F. Osmund; Mr. S. Pina; Mr. J. A. C. V. Ribeiro; Mr. J. Rocha; Mr. F. M. Rosa Pereira; Mr. P. Silva and Mr. P. Soares; Working Committee—Mr. F. X. Brito; Mr. J. R. Campos; Mr. L. G. Cordeiro; Mr. M. V. Leon; Mr. A. A. Lopes; Mr. Alfredo Remedios; Mr. E. M. O. Remedios; Mr. H. M. V. Remedios; Mr. F. A. C. V. Ribeiro; Mr. R. C. Silva; Mr. J. M. Victor and Mr. P. Yvanovich.

The annual sports promoted by the Lusitano Recreation Club were held last Monday afternoon at Happy Valley, when the weather was all that could be desired. There was a large gathering of spectators present to witness the numerous events, and the sports were most interesting, all having a large number of entries. During the afternoon, the 13th Rajputs Band under Bandmaster Coke played popular selections of music, which were much appreciated. Detailed results of the events are appended:—

BOYS' RACE, 220 YARDS (Handicap).—Boys from 10 to 15 years of age. First prize presented by Mr. A. G. da Rocha. Second prize presented by Mr. J. F. da Silva.

1—J. Pereira, 23 yds. 2—G. Roza, 30 yds. BICYCLE RACE, 1 mile (Handicap).—First prize presented by Mr. A. M. Soares. Second prize presented by Mr. A. V. Barros. 1—F. M. S. Soares, 8 yds. 2—F. M. S. Soares, 10 yds. 3—F. M. S. Soares, 12 yds. 4—F. M. S. Soares, 14 yds. 5—F. M. S. Soares, 16 yds. 6—F. M. S. Soares, 18 yds. 7—F. M. S. Soares, 20 yds. 8—F. M. S. Soares, 22 yds. 9—F. M. S. Soares, 24 yds. 10—F. M. S. Soares, 26 yds. 11—F. M. S. Soares, 28 yds. 12—F. M. S. Soares, 30 yds. 13—F. M. S. Soares, 32 yds. 14—F. M. S. Soares, 34 yds. 15—F. M. S. Soares, 36 yds. 16—F. M. S. Soares, 38 yds. 17—F. M. S. Soares, 40 yds. 18—F. M. S. Soares, 42 yds. 19—F. M. S. Soares, 44 yds. 20—F. M. S. Soares, 46 yds. 21—F. M. S. Soares, 48 yds. 22—F. M. S. Soares, 50 yds. 23—F. M. S. Soares, 52 yds. 24—F. M. S. Soares, 54 yds. 25—F. M. S. Soares, 56 yds. 26—F. M. S. Soares, 58 yds. 27—F. M. S. Soares, 60 yds. 28—F. M. S. Soares, 62 yds. 29—F. M. S. Soares, 64 yds. 30—F. M. S. Soares, 66 yds. 31—F. M. S. Soares, 68 yds. 32—F. M. S. Soares, 70 yds. 33—F. M. S. Soares, 72 yds. 34—F. M. S. Soares, 74 yds. 35—F. M. S. Soares, 76 yds. 36—F. M. S. Soares, 78 yds. 37—F. M. S. Soares, 80 yds. 38—F. M. S. Soares, 82 yds. 39—F. M. S. Soares, 84 yds. 40—F. M. S. Soares, 86 yds. 41—F. M. S. Soares, 88 yds. 42—F. M. S. Soares, 90 yds. 43—F. M. S. Soares, 92 yds. 44—F. M. S. Soares, 94 yds. 45—F. M. S. Soares, 96 yds. 46—F. M. S. Soares, 98 yds. 47—F. M. S. Soares, 100 yds. 48—F. M. S. Soares, 102 yds. 49—F. M. S. Soares, 104 yds. 50—F. M. S. Soares, 106 yds. 51—F. M. S. Soares, 108 yds. 52—F. M. S. Soares, 110 yds. 53—F. M. S. Soares, 112 yds. 54—F. M. S. Soares, 114 yds. 55—F. M. S. Soares, 116 yds. 56—F. M. S. Soares, 118 yds. 57—F. M. S. Soares, 120 yds. 58—F. M. S. Soares, 122 yds. 59—F. M. S. Soares, 124 yds. 60—F. M. S. Soares, 126 yds. 61—F. M. S. Soares, 128 yds. 62—F. M. S. Soares, 130 yds. 63—F. M. S. Soares, 132 yds. 64—F. M. S. Soares, 134 yds. 65—F. M. S. Soares, 136 yds. 66—F. M. S. Soares, 138 yds. 67—F. M. S. Soares, 140 yds. 68—F. M. S. Soares, 142 yds. 69—F. M. S. Soares, 144 yds. 70—F. M. S. Soares, 146 yds. 71—F. M. S. Soares, 148 yds. 72—F. M. S. Soares, 150 yds. 73—F. M. S. Soares, 152 yds. 74—F. M. S. Soares, 154 yds. 75—F. M. S. Soares, 156 yds. 76—F. M. S. Soares, 158 yds. 77—F. M. S. Soares, 160 yds. 78—F. M. S. Soares, 162 yds. 79—F. M. S. Soares, 164 yds. 80—F. M. S. Soares, 166 yds. 81—F. M. S. Soares, 168 yds. 82—F. M. S. Soares, 170 yds. 83—F. M. S. Soares, 172 yds. 84—F. M. S. Soares, 174 yds. 85—F. M. S. Soares, 176 yds. 86—F. M. S. Soares, 178 yds. 87—F. M. S. Soares, 180 yds. 88—F. M. S. Soares, 182 yds. 89—F. M. S. Soares, 184 yds. 90—F. M. S. Soares, 186 yds. 91—F. M. S. Soares, 188 yds. 92—F. M. S. Soares, 190 yds. 93—F. M. S. Soares, 192 yds. 94—F. M. S. Soares, 194 yds. 95—F. M. S. Soares, 196 yds. 96—F. M. S. Soares, 198 yds. 97—F. M. S. Soares, 200 yds. 98—F. M. S. Soares, 202 yds. 99—F. M. S. Soares, 204 yds. 100—F. M. S. Soares, 206 yds. 101—F. M. S. Soares, 208 yds. 102—F. M. S. Soares, 210 yds. 103—F. M. S. Soares, 212 yds. 104—F. M. S. Soares, 214 yds. 105—F. M. S. Soares, 216 yds. 106—F. M. S. Soares, 218 yds. 107—F. M. S. Soares, 220 yds. 108—F. M. S. Soares, 222 yds. 109—F. M. S. Soares, 224 yds. 110—F. M. S. Soares, 226 yds. 111—F. M. S. Soares, 228 yds. 112—F. M. S. Soares, 230 yds. 113—F. M. S. Soares, 232 yds. 114—F. M. S. Soares, 234 yds. 115—F. M. S. Soares, 236 yds. 116—F. M. S. Soares, 238 yds. 117—F. M. S. Soares, 240 yds. 118—F. M. S. Soares, 242 yds. 119—F. M. S. Soares, 244 yds. 120—F. M. S. Soares, 246 yds. 121—F. M. S. Soares, 248 yds. 122—F. M. S. Soares, 250 yds. 123—F. M. S. Soares, 252 yds. 124—F. M. S. Soares, 254 yds. 125—F. M. S. Soares, 256 yds. 126—F. M. S. Soares, 258 yds. 127—F. M. S. Soares, 260 yds. 128—F. M. S. Soares, 262 yds. 129—F. M. S. Soares, 264 yds. 130—F. M. S. Soares, 266 yds. 131—F. M. S. Soares, 268 yds. 132—F. M. S. Soares, 270 yds. 133—F. M. S. Soares, 272 yds. 134—F. M. S. Soares, 274 yds. 135—F. M. S. Soares, 276 yds. 136—F. M. S. Soares, 278 yds. 137—F. M. S. Soares, 280 yds. 138—F. M. S. Soares, 282 yds. 139—F. M. S. Soares, 284 yds. 140—F. M. S. Soares, 286 yds. 141—F. M. S. Soares, 288 yds. 142—F. M. S. Soares, 290 yds. 143—F. M. S. Soares, 292 yds. 144—F. M. S. Soares, 294 yds. 145—F. M. S. Soares, 296 yds. 146—F. M. S. Soares, 298 yds. 147—F. M. S. Soares, 300 yds. 148—F. M. S. Soares, 302 yds. 149—F. M. S. Soares, 304 yds. 150—F. M. S. Soares, 306 yds. 151—F. M. S. Soares, 308 yds. 152—F. M. S. Soares, 310 yds. 153—F. M. S. Soares, 312 yds. 154—F. M. S. Soares, 314 yds. 155—F. M. S. Soares, 316 yds. 156—F. M. S. Soares, 318 yds. 157—F. M. S. Soares, 320 yds. 158—F. M. S. Soares, 322 yds. 159—F. M. S. Soares, 324 yds. 160—F. M. S. Soares, 326 yds. 161—F. M. S. Soares, 328 yds. 162—F. M. S. Soares, 330 yds. 163—F. M. S. Soares, 332 yds. 164—F. M. S. Soares, 334 yds. 165—F. M. S. Soares, 336 yds. 166—F. M. S. Soares, 338 yds. 167—F. M. S. Soares, 340 yds. 168—F. M. S. Soares, 342 yds. 169—F. M. S. Soares, 344 yds. 170—F. M. S. Soares, 346 yds. 171—F. M. S. Soares, 348 yds. 172—F. M. S. Soares, 350 yds. 173—F. M. S. Soares, 352 yds. 174—F. M. S. Soares, 354 yds. 175—F. M. S. Soares, 356 yds. 176—F. M. S. Soares, 358 yds. 177—F. M. S. Soares, 360 yds. 178—F. M. S. Soares, 362 yds. 179—F. M. S. Soares, 364 yds. 180—F. M. S. Soares, 366 yds. 181—F. M. S. Soares, 368 yds. 182—F. M. S. Soares, 370 yds. 183—F. M. S. Soares, 372 yds. 184—F. M. S. Soares, 374 yds. 185—F. M. S. Soares, 376 yds. 186—F. M. S. Soares, 378 yds. 187—F. M. S. Soares, 380 yds. 188—F. M. S. Soares, 382 yds. 189—F. M. S. Soares, 384 yds. 190—F. M. S. Soares, 386 yds. 191—F. M. S. Soares, 388 yds. 192—F. M. S. Soares, 390 yds. 193—F. M. S. Soares, 392 yds. 194—F. M. S. Soares, 394 yds. 195—F. M. S. Soares, 396 yds. 196—F. M. S. Soares, 398 yds. 197—F. M. S. Soares, 400 yds. 198—F. M. S. Soares, 402 yds. 199—F. M. S. Soares, 404 yds. 200—F. M. S. Soares, 406 yds. 201—F. M. S. Soares, 408 yds. 202—F. M. S. Soares, 410 yds. 203—F. M. S. Soares, 412 yds. 204—F. M. S. Soares, 414 yds. 205—F. M. S. Soares, 416 yds. 206—F. M. S. Soares, 418 yds. 207—F. M. S. Soares, 420 yds. 208—F. M. S. Soares, 422 yds. 209—F. M. S. Soares, 424 yds. 210—F. M. S. Soares, 426 yds. 211—F. M. S. Soares, 428 yds. 212—F. M. S. Soares, 430 yds. 213—F. M. S. Soares, 432 yds. 214—F. M. S. Soares, 434 yds. 215—F. M. S. Soares, 436 yds. 216—F. M. S. Soares, 438 yds. 217—F. M. S. Soares, 440 yds. 218—F. M. S. Soares, 442 yds. 219—F. M. S. Soares, 444 yds. 220—F. M. S. Soares, 446 yds. 221—F. M. S. Soares, 448 yds. 222—F. M. S. Soares, 450 yds. 223—F. M. S. Soares, 452 yds. 224—F. M. S. Soares, 454 yds. 225—F. M. S. Soares, 456 yds. 226—F. M. S. Soares, 458 yds. 227—F. M. S. Soares, 460 yds. 228—F. M. S. Soares, 462 yds. 229—F. M. S. Soares, 464 yds. 230—F. M. S. Soares, 466 yds. 231—F. M. S. Soares, 468 yds. 232—F. M. S. Soares, 470 yds. 233—F. M. S. Soares, 472 yds. 234—F. M. S. Soares, 474 yds. 235—F. M. S. Soares, 476 yds. 236—F. M. S. Soares, 478 yds. 237—F. M. S. Soares, 480 yds. 238—F. M. S. Soares, 482 yds. 239—F. M. S. Soares, 484 yds. 240—F. M. S. Soares, 486 yds. 241—F. M. S. Soares, 488 yds. 242—F. M. S. Soares, 490 yds. 243—F. M. S. Soares, 492 yds. 244—F. M. S. Soares, 494 yds. 245—F. M. S. Soares, 496 yds. 246—F. M. S. Soares, 498 yds. 247—F. M. S. Soares, 500 yds. 248—F. M. S. Soares, 502 yds. 249—F. M. S. Soares, 504 yds. 250—F. M. S. Soares, 506 yds. 251—F. M. S. Soares, 508 yds. 252—F. M. S. Soares, 510 yds. 253—F. M. S. Soares, 512 yds. 254—F. M. S. Soares, 514 yds. 255—F. M. S. Soares, 516 yds. 256—F. M. S. Soares, 518 yds. 257—F. M. S. Soares, 520 yds. 258—F. M. S. Soares, 522 yds. 259—F. M. S. Soares, 524 yds. 260—F. M. S. Soares, 526 yds. 261—F. M. S. Soares, 528 yds. 262—F. M. S. Soares, 530 yds. 263—F. M. S. Soares, 532 yds. 264—F. M. S. Soares, 534 yds. 265—F. M. S. Soares, 536 yds. 266—F. M. S. Soares, 538 yds. 267—F. M. S. Soares, 540 yds. 268—F. M. S. Soares, 542 yds. 269—F. M. S. Soares, 544 yds. 270—F. M. S. Soares, 546 yds. 271—F. M. S. Soares, 548 yds. 272—F. M. S. Soares, 550 yds. 273—F. M. S. Soares, 552 yds. 274—F. M. S. Soares, 554 yds. 275—F. M. S. Soares, 556 yds. 276—F. M. S. Soares, 558 yds. 277—F. M. S. Soares, 560 yds. 278—F. M. S. Soares, 562 yds. 279—F. M. S. Soares, 564 yds. 280—F. M. S. Soares, 566 yds. 281—F. M. S. Soares, 568 yds. 282—F. M. S. Soares, 570 yds. 283—F. M. S. Soares, 572 yds. 284—F. M. S. Soares, 574 yds. 285—F. M. S. Soares, 576 yds. 286—F. M. S. Soares, 578 yds. 287—F. M. S. Soares, 580 yds. 288—F. M. S. Soares, 582 yds. 289—F. M. S. Soares, 584 yds. 290—F. M. S. Soares, 586 yds. 291—F. M. S. Soares, 588 yds. 292—F. M. S. Soares, 590 yds. 293—F. M. S. Soares, 592 yds. 294—F. M. S. Soares, 594 yds. 295—F. M. S. Soares, 596 yds. 296—F. M. S. Soares, 598 yds. 297—F. M. S. Soares, 600 yds. 298—F. M. S. Soares, 602 yds. 299—F. M. S. Soares, 604 yds. 300—F. M. S. Soares, 606 yds. 301—F. M. S. Soares, 608 yds. 302—F. M. S. Soares, 610 yds. 303—F. M. S. Soares, 612 yds. 304—F. M. S. Soares, 614 yds. 305—F. M. S. Soares, 616 yds. 306—F. M. S. Soares, 618 yds. 307—F. M. S. Soares, 620 yds. 308—F. M. S. Soares, 622 yds. 309—F. M. S. Soares, 624 yds. 310—F. M. S. Soares, 626 yds. 311—F. M. S. Soares, 628 yds. 312—F. M. S. Soares, 630 yds. 313—F. M. S. Soares, 632 yds. 314—F. M. S. Soares, 634 yds. 315—F. M. S. Soares, 636 yds. 316—F. M. S. Soares, 638 yds. 317—F. M. S. Soares, 640 yds. 318—F. M. S. Soares, 642 yds. 319—F. M. S. Soares, 644 yds. 320—F. M. S. Soares, 646 yds. 321—F. M. S. Soares, 648 yds. 322—F. M. S. Soares, 650 yds. 323—F. M. S. Soares, 652 yds. 324—F. M. S. Soares, 654 yds. 325—F. M. S. Soares, 656 yds. 326—F. M. S. Soares, 658 yds. 327—F. M. S. Soares, 660 yds. 328—F. M. S. Soares, 662 yds. 329—F. M. S. Soares, 664 yds. 330—F. M. S. Soares, 666 yds. 331—F. M. S. Soares, 668 yds. 332—F. M. S. Soares, 670 yds. 333—F. M. S. Soares, 672 yds. 334—F. M. S. Soares, 674 yds. 335—F. M. S. Soares, 676 yds. 336—F. M. S. Soares, 678 yds. 337—F. M. S. Soares, 680 yds. 338—F. M. S. Soares, 682 yds. 339—F. M. S. Soares, 684 yds. 340—F. M. S. Soares, 686 yds. 341—F. M. S. Soares, 688 yds. 342—F. M. S. Soares, 690 yds. 343—F. M. S. Soares, 692 yds. 344—F. M. S. Soares, 694 yds. 345—F. M. S. Soares, 696 yds. 346—F. M. S. Soares, 698 yds. 347—F. M. S. Soares, 700 yds. 348—F. M. S. Soares, 702 yds. 349—F. M. S. Soares, 704 yds. 350—F. M. S. Soares, 706 yds. 351—F. M. S. Soares, 708 yds. 352—F. M. S. Soares, 710 yds. 353—F. M. S. Soares, 712 yds. 354—F. M. S. Soares, 714 yds. 355—F. M. S. Soares, 716 yds. 356—F. M. S. Soares, 718 yds. 357—F. M. S. Soares, 720 yds. 358—F. M. S. Soares, 722 yds. 359—F. M. S. Soares, 724 yds. 360—F. M. S. Soares, 726 yds. 361—F. M. S. Soares, 728 yds. 362—F. M. S. Soares, 730 yds. 363—F. M. S. Soares, 732 yds. 364—F. M. S. Soares, 734 yds. 365—F. M. S. Soares, 736 yds. 366—F. M. S. Soares, 738 yds. 367—F. M. S. Soares, 740 yds. 368—F. M. S. Soares, 742 yds. 369—F. M. S. Soares, 744 yds. 370—F. M. S. Soares, 746 yds. 371—F. M. S. Soares, 748 yds. 372—F. M. S. Soares, 750 yds. 373—F. M. S. Soares, 752 yds. 374—F. M. S. Soares, 754 yds. 375—F. M. S. Soares, 756 yds. 376—F. M. S. Soares, 758 yds. 377—F. M. S. Soares, 760 yds. 378—F. M. S. Soares, 762 yds. 379—F. M. S. Soares, 764 yds. 380—F. M. S. Soares, 766 yds. 381—F. M. S. Soares, 768 yds. 382—F. M. S. Soares, 770 yds. 383—F. M. S. Soares, 772 yds. 384—F. M. S. Soares, 774 yds. 385—F. M. S. Soares, 776 yds. 386—F. M. S. Soares, 778 yds. 387—F. M. S. Soares, 780

THE GOVERNOR'S TRIP TO CANTON.

CHINESE NAVAL ESCORT PROVIDED.

[From Our Special Representative.]

Shameen, 7th April.
It may not be generally known that the Governor of Hongkong and party were accorded a special honour to-day upon their arrival within the waters of Canton to assist at the historic ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the station building of the Canton-Kowloon Railway (Imperial Chinese section) of which I am giving you a full and detailed account. [The last part of the account is in the 8th inst.,—Ed., H.A.T.] The special mark of honour shown to the head of the Executive in the British Colony is peculiarly gratifying to British residents on the Shameen, demonstrating the cordial relations subsisting between the representatives of two neighbouring ports whose commercial interests are so interdependent with each other as Canton and Hongkong are.

The official party from Hongkong included His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, Capt. P. H. Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., Capt. Simson, private secretary, Hon. Mr. F. H. May, Colonial Secretary, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, assistant colonial secretary, and Lieut. C. W. Beckwith, assistant harbour master. I learned that the Government Commander Stanley (commanded by Capt. G. Willoughby), which brought the party up, left Hongkong about a quarter past eleven on Tuesday. When she left Blake Pier the moon was high up and the night was bright. The journey all the way up was a most delightful one with a light pleasant breeze blowing all the time. The Stanley passed Tiger Island (Bogue Fort) at dawn proceeding up the river under easy sail. The cruiser *Kiang Yu*, flagship of Admiral Li Chun, and the *Kiang Yu*, were awaiting the arrival of the distinguished visitors. Both the Chinese vessels were dressed in honour of the British Governor. As soon as the Stanley passed the cruisers, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and, allowing the Stanley the position of honour in the lead, the sister vessels followed in the wake of the tender till Tai-shock Barrier was passed. At this point Admiral Li on the *Kiang Yu* steamed ahead, the sister ship—*Kiang Yu*—bringing up the rear guard escorting His Excellency and party to the Southern Capital. All the way up on either side of the river the Chinese soldiers carrying the numerous flags and banners had turned out for review. Trumpet blowing, drum beating and the usual concomitants of Chinese merry-making heralded the approach of the Stanley. The tender arrived off the Shameen a little after ten, and was boarded by Mr. H. H. Fox, acting British Consul-General in Canton, and the leading residents in the foreign concession. At the conclusion of the official visits the Stanley proceeded to Tai-sha-tau to attend the corner-stone ceremony. A boat from H.M.S. *Morchen* conveyed the official party to the jetty. Upon the conclusion of the ceremony the Governor and suite re-embarked on board the Stanley which steamed back to Shameen, departing from Canton waters on the return journey to Hongkong at 11.30 p.m.

"EMPRESS" LIVER.

WIRELESS INSTALLATION.

We are advised that the Marconi wireless apparatus has been installed on the *Empress of China*, which steamer is due to arrive in Hongkong at 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon, and that the *Empress of India* and *Empress of Japan* will be similarly fitted on reaching Vancouver.

A TRIP THROUGH SETUL.

STANFORD LAND AWAITS THE PROSPECTOR.

"Mincro" sends to the *Bangkok Times* an account of a trip through Setul, a comparatively little known Siamese State to the north of Penang and Kedah. These passages refer more particularly to the natural resources of this district.
The population of Setul is about 5,000, Malays predominating, but there are a good many Chinese and a few Siamese. The roads are level, and well made with deep black mud, on either side to carry away the surface water, and are kept clean and free from rubbish.
The main road through the State is good for travelling as far as Sungai Dusu, 14 miles, and a new road following the telegraph line from Kampong China to Perlis has been traced and partly made, as far as Wang Blachan, but the road requires metalling, and several bridges will have to be built, but I understand there are no funds available for this work, which has to be paid for out of revenue.
On either side of this new road there are large areas of agricultural land, both flat and undulating, available and eminently suitable for rubber or sugar planting and equal to anything in the F. M. S.
The land is well watered, requires little draining, and has the advantage of being served by a good road and within easy distance of a shipping port, whilst the telegraph line traverses the property.
There are also immense areas of stanniferous land waiting for the prospector, and the throwing open of the State by the Government to miners. At the present time Malays and Chinese only are allowed to take land for silting purposes, to the exclusion of the Europeans who could introduce capital and open up the country.
Several large areas have been taken up by Chinese but no actual mining or prospecting has been done, and although the Siamese Mining Regulations apply to the State, there does not appear to be any resident official capable of enforcing them, and all applications for mining or agricultural land must be made direct to Bangkok.
It is difficult to understand why these small States on the Western Coast are not thrown open to foreigners—as are the Eastern States for mining and planting, but the methods of Eastern Governments are proverbially slow.
The writer has spent some months in the State and has come across very old Siamese (the workings), and evidence that the tin was crudely smelted for export, the tin slag found assaying over 20 per cent. He also discovered several places in the interior where payable tin could be mined, but until a satisfactory tin is obtainable it would be useless to take the land up for silting purposes.
The State is well administered by a Governor (Malay), a very enlightened man, but the amount of revenue derived at present is quite inadequate to meet the expenses of road making, bridge building, and generally opening up the country.
When the introduction of outside capital is permitted, and granted to Europeans for mining and planting—and this must inevitably come to pass—then the Government will be enabled to do much for the State, and it will not be difficult to prospect for great future for this little known State.

GUNBOAT FOR MACAO.

NEW SHALLOW DRAFT VESSEL TO BE PUT UP IN HONGKONG.

For some time past the Portuguese Government has had in contemplation the building of a shallow draft gunboat, after the pattern of the British river gunboats, for Macao. Last year a contract was placed with the firm of Messrs. Yarrow & Co. engineers and shipbuilders, of Scotland, Glasgow, for a vessel of the type of the *Moorken*. Her dimensions are—length 120 ft., by 26 ft., and 2 ft. 1 in. draft. The construction has been completed and the vessel is now on the way out in sections. She has been shipped by the s.s. *Clenloch*, which is due to arrive in Hongkong on the 16th inst.
Messrs. Yarrow & Co. have despatched one of their expert engineers ahead of the gunboat. Mr. Walter Bugg, the representative in question of the Glasgow firm, has arrived in Hongkong and is awaiting the *Clenloch* with the firm's freight on board. Mr. Bugg will superintend the putting together of the different sections on behalf of the builders, while the Portuguese Superintendent will be Lieut. Pinto Basto who is due here from Lisbon by the German mail. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company will be given the contract for piecing together the sectional parts of the gunboat. We understand she will be named *Macao*.

JAPAN SUGAR COMPANY.

SHARES AT WASTE, PAPER PRICES.

The failure of the Fujimoto Bank has intensified the feeling of uncertainty in the share market with regard to the position of the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company. On the 20th ultimo the new shares Y20 paid up of the Dai Nippon Sugar Refining Company dropped by Y50 on the Osaka Stock Exchange and touched Y250, becoming practically worthless. The highest rate reached in November last for January delivery was Y37. The old shares, Y20 paid up, dropped to Y19 and a few sen. The new shares, which Y20 has yet to be paid, are now worse than waste paper as their holders are bound to pay another Y20 on each share, and get nothing in return.

The *Osaka Asahi* notes that the new shares would have become utterly worthless had not speculators continued, as they do even now, to buy them in the hope of a recovery. But desire for further speculation is rapidly disappearing of their shares.—*Japan Chronicle*.

AN EMPHATIC BRITISH PROTEST.

Sir Claude McDonald, the British Ambassador, as well as other members of the Embassy, who are shareholders of the Japan Sugar Manufacturing Company, recently presented the following protest to Premier Katsura, reports the *Japan Advertiser*.
"We, British subjects, do not expect to be indemnified for the great losses which we have suffered as shareholders in the Japan Sugar Manufacturing Company on account of the dishonesty of the Directors. British subjects are gentlemen. We, therefore, purpose as shareholders to see the company's affairs to the end. But to release the unprincipled directors without subjecting them to any restraints, either legal or moral, will not only obstruct development in economic circles in Japan but will also fail to ensure the maintenance of Japanese credit in foreign markets. When some years ago an affair similar to that of the Japan Sugar Manufacturing Company occurred in England the responsible persons were subjected to legal restraint and sentenced to 25 (sic) years' imprisonment with hard labour."

BIG FIRE IN BANGKOK.

OVER 100 HOUSES DESTROYED.

The *Siam Free Press* of 2nd inst. states:—At half past eleven this morning a fire which swept a considerable area of habitable dwellings to the west side of the New Road broke out in the Bangkok District close to the Poh Yome Bridge and only a few yards from the southern end of the area cleared by fire a little over one year ago. The precise origin of the outbreak seems to be a moot point. There was heavy thunderstorm overhead at the time and it is said that lightning struck an electric light post and then glanced on to an adjoining house. On the other hand it is averred that some coolies were abstracting kerosene from a tin. Be this as it may, the fire first broke out in the second house from the bridge and in a very short time had spread to several ramshackle buildings adjoining it. There was a strong southerly wind blowing at the time which drove the flames along the New Road, whilst they also swept westwards towards the river. After the alarm was given the police from both the Bangkok and Bantawal stations were soon on the scene but without pumps their efforts to quell the flames were utterly futile. One of the engines of the Siam Electricity Co. Ltd. and the brigade of Messrs. Windsor and Co. were the first to arrive on the scene. By this time there were fully fifty houses either fully ablaze or gutted; the telegraph and electric light poles on both sides of the street were ablaze and some of the woodwork of the houses on the east side of the New Road had also caught. At about noon the wind, which had hitherto been responsible for most of the mischief, dropped, and as everything had been well drenched by the heavy rain, the efforts of the firemen began to have the desired result, viz. to keep the conflagration from spreading northwards towards the new Bangkok market. Meanwhile other detachments of the Electricity Co.'s Brigade and the Siam and other brigades had come on the scene and shortly after half past twelve all danger was over of the fire spreading further. Several houses were very energetic in their efforts to subdue the fire, amongst whom Messrs. Koths of Messrs. Windsor and Co., and Porzi of the No. 1 Siam brigade, were conspicuous while some Japanese who appeared mysteriously on the scene did splendid work on the roof of the threatened building, as well as with axes. By one o'clock the fire was completely in hand and nothing was left but a L-shaped space, about one hundred yards long by five yards wide of crumbling and smouldering ruins. So far as is known there were no lives lost and no serious casualties were sustained, although there were a few bruises and contusions among the firemen. There were quite a number of Siamese—Princes and Nobles present, including H. R. H. Prince Bhaskarawong, H. R. H. Prince Nakon Chulak, H. R. H. Prince of Kampeang Chale, a cavalry guard was in attendance.

In addition to the brigade before mentioned that of Messrs. Howarth & Ekin Ltd. was held in readiness to cut off the fire northward, not only from their own works but also from the district where last year's fire took place, much of which has been rebuilt upon. (So far as we can learn none of the premises destroyed were insured, except of them being of a very humble description, such as Chinese shops, public houses and the like.)

A MANAGER'S SALARY.

ACTION FOR ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT.

An *Yat Po*, a restaurant manager, sued the Tin Yin Wai Koo salting-house of 81, Station Street South, Yau-mah-lai, in the Supreme Court, last Wednesday, to recover the sum of \$600 damages for alleged breach of contract.

Mr. E. Davidson, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, was for the plaintiff, while Mr. Otto Kung Sing defended. An *Yat Po*, it would seem from his story, was at one time in the employ of the defendant firm. As a matter of fact he was the promoter of the business. As manager of the firm his remuneration was \$600 a year. His engagement commenced last February and plaintiff retained in the defendant's employ for only two months, when he was dismissed without notice.

Mr. Justice Gompertz asked plaintiff's solicitor whether he was suing for a year's salary. The reply was in the affirmative. The plaintiff was dismissed without justification and was entitled to damages, which he would have earned were he allowed to complete the contract. The reason why he was discharged was because he had refused to write off one of the partner's shares. The shares had not been paid up in full and they wanted plaintiff to write "settled" over the account which he refused to do. There was a row and plaintiff was discharged on the spot.

The plaintiff, cross-examined by Mr. Kung Sing, stated that when he promoted the firm there were six partners. Mr. Kung Sing then took the plaintiff to the rules of the contract as drawn by the partners. He suggested that certain additions were made without the knowledge of the other partners by plaintiff, but this was denied. The addition, it was alleged, was to have been plaintiff's salary. The plaintiff supposed to have been plaintiff's salary. The plaintiff who drew up the agreement, and who was employed by the firm, drew \$6 a month. When the partnership dissolved the business was not put up for sale by tender. The partners thought of doing so, but later changed their minds.

Mr. Kung Sing—Didn't you in a previous case between the partners say that the business was sold?—No.

Wasn't it because the business was losing that the transfers were made?—No, the business was not a losing concern.

At the time the business started you made an estimate of the wages each partner was to get?—About twenty.

Were you in charge of the wages book?—No. Have you seen it?—Yes.

The wages book was produced when plaintiff identified and pointed out his name, which gave the salary on which he was received.

As a matter of fact you received \$4 a month?—No, replied plaintiff with great emphasis. How much did managers of restaurants get a month?—Between \$50 and \$60.

In that book you allowed \$90 for all wages. How do you account for that?—That was a guess. It was only an estimate. Your \$50 was to be paid out of the \$50?—That estimate was a rough one made before the business opened.

Further evidence was called by the plaintiff. After that the defence opened its case and proceeded to show that plaintiff was only engaged at \$8 a month and that whatever money was owing to him by the firm was paid in full. The case was adjourned until Monday next.

A RESCUE AT SEA.

ADRIFF IN A SMALL BOAT.

The *Siam Free Press* of 30th ult. says:—Captain Reber, of the s.s. *Rajah*, which arrived this morning from Hongkong, reported that when near Pulo Opi he picked up three Annamites who were adrift in a small boat. They had, it seems, been blown out to sea from the mouth of the Saigon river, a distance of about 240 miles and were in a very miserable condition. Upon arrival here they were handed over to the Harbour Department which in turn sent them to the French Consulate.

DARING OUTRAGE IN KOBE.

FOREIGN LADY ROBBED.

A young foreign lady, Miss M. Fleming, in the employ of Messrs. C. Nickel & Co., Kobe, was a victim of a highway robbery on Tuesday evening, 29th ult. The lady was walking up the Hill towards the Tor Hotel at about 7.30, and was just passing the residence of Mr. C. Lucas in Yamamoto-dori, 3-chome, when a Japanese suddenly sprang on her, snatched a bag containing Y20 in cash, which she was carrying in her right hand, with the cord round her wrist. The man vanished as suddenly as he appeared. Upon arrival at the hotel, Miss Fleming communicated with the police by telephone and no time was lost in instituting a search for the robber, but without result. The police are redoubting their efforts, however, and it is hoped the man will be arrested shortly.

In an interview with a *Japan Chronicle* representative yesterday Miss Fleming said that she had just left a lady friend when she noticed that she was being followed by a rough-looking man of the collier class. This man suddenly came up and struck her a violent blow on the back of the neck, then seized her wrist and snatched the bag she was carrying, disappearing down a dark narrow lane. Miss Fleming proceeded at once to the Tor Hotel and the manager telephoned to the police, who were soon on the spot, but no trace of the thief could be found. This is the third time Miss Fleming has been similarly attacked, and on each occasion these attacks have occurred on the last day of the month.

SHANGHAI GAOL BREAK.

PRISONERS AT LARGE.

Great excitement was caused in the Hongkong district about an alleged break in the gaol of police-whistles and the sight of prison guards running in all directions, reports the *Shanghai Mercury* of 7th inst. It was learned that a gang of six convicts who were undergoing sentences of imprisonment ranging from one to three years for various crimes, such as kidnapping, robbery, etc., had escaped from the Honan Road depot of the Municipal gaol, which is situated near the railway station and used as a stone yard, being surrounded by a high fence. While the men were at work and the guards patrolling the grounds, the men broke the chain by which they were attached to each other with a stone hammer with which they were working, and making a sudden dash for the gate, they were soon on the public road and scattering in various directions they made good their escape, some going along Honan Road, and others making in the direction of Pao-shan territory only a short distance away. Later in the afternoon one of the escaped convicts who was in hiding in Pao-shan was captured by the police and he will be taken back to the Municipal gaol. Another escaped convict, who escaped, was one who was convicted of the gaol-break of last year, during which an Indian warder was badly wounded. The prisoner was only recently repatriated to the country and returned to gaol, and had since been employed on the China gao.

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The report of the Board of Directors to the twentieth ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, at noon on Saturday, 24th inst., is as follows:—
Gentlemen,—Your directors have the pleasure to submit the accompanying statement of the company's accounts for the year ending 24th February, 1909.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account is \$161,702.92; after deducting directors' fees (\$5,000) there remains a sum of \$156,702.92 available for appropriation, and your directors recommend that this be disposed of as follows:—

To pay a dividend of 10 per cent.—
Say \$100 per share on 60,000 shares.....\$ 60,000.00
To pay a bonus of 2 per cent.....\$ 60,000.00
Say 20 cents per share on 60,000 shares.....12,000.00
To write off plant account for depreciation.....66,382.15
To write off property account for depreciation.....11,045.99
To pay a bonus to staff.....4,081.30
To carry forward to next account.....5,195.48

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the articles of association, Messrs. J. W. C. Bonnar and E. G. Barrett retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and J. Cox Edwards (the latter in place of Mr. C. W. May who is absent from the Colony). Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and J. Cox Edwards offer themselves for re-election.

J. W. C. BONNAR,

Chairman.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1909.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO FEBRUARY 24TH, 1909.

Liabilities.

Capital:—
60,000 shares each \$10 paid up.....\$600,000.00
Sundry creditors.....7,122.50
Dividends unclaimed.....6,793.20
Suspense account.....1,744.80
Balance of profit and loss account.....161,702.92

Assets.

Plant, cost of, as per last account.....\$483,308.60
Less amount provided for depreciation.....58,108.60
\$425,200.00

Cost of plant, since added.....71,382.15
\$496,582.15

Property, cost of land and buildings as per last account.....\$123,612.10
Less amount provided for depreciation.....13,612.10

Cost of buildings since added.....1,043.99
\$11,045.99

Installation material, stock of.....45,682.24
Stores and coal, stock of.....14,962.53
Tools, etc., stock of.....1,719.30

Furniture, cost of, as per last account.....620.00
Cost of furniture, since added.....57.00
\$677.00

Insurance, value of unexpired portions of policies.....1,600.00
Sundry debtors.....26,007.74
Cash with agents.....25,139.13

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.....55,139.53
\$777,363.60

WORKING ACCOUNT.

To Agency and office expenses.....\$ 8,000.00
To Rent and taxes.....3,037.86
To Insurance.....2,978.50
To Auditors' fees.....323.00
To Bad debts.....787.54
To Amount carried to profit and loss account.....152,381.49

By Net profit on working.....\$ 68,185.49

By Net profit on working.....\$ 167,799.45
By Scrip and transfer fees.....16.00
By Interest.....470.04
\$168,285.49

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To Amount available for appropriation.....\$161,702.92
\$161,702.92

By Amount of undivided profit, as per last account.....\$ 9,321.43
Balance of working account brought down.....152,381.49

\$161,702.92

CHARGE AGAINST AN EX-BARRISTER.

SENTENCE.

Yesterday, the 30th ultimo, in the Kobe Chito Saibansho, sentence of one year's imprisonment was passed on Tobishiki Kyutaro, formerly a barrister practising at the Kobe Bar, and Shindo Masataro, of Kagawa prefecture, on a charge of fraud.

As will be remembered it was alleged that the accused Chindo, who had married into the family of Kagawa prefecture, being subsequently registered as the head of the family, was divorced on account of monetary difficulties and the divorce was duly registered in March, 1907. On the suggestion of the accused Tobishiki, Shindo authorized the former, who was then practising as a barrister, to draw up a bogus document purporting to show that a sum of Y5000 was to be paid by Shindo to Tobishiki as remuneration for legal services rendered by the latter during the time Shindo was the head of the family. The accused Tobishiki transferred the alleged debt to one of his relatives, who, by virtue of the document, attached the (immovable) property of the family to the debt. The charge against the accused Chindo was that he had, in March, 1907, on the suggestion of the accused Tobishiki, Shindo authorized the former, who was then practising as a barrister, to draw up a bogus document purporting to show that a sum of Y5000 was to be paid by Shindo to Tobishiki as remuneration for legal services rendered by the latter during the time Shindo was the head of the family. The accused Tobishiki transferred the alleged debt to one of his relatives, who, by virtue of the document, attached the (immovable) property of the family to the debt. The charge against the accused Chindo was that he had, in March, 1907, on the suggestion of the accused Tobishiki, Shindo authorized the former, who was then practising as a barrister, to draw up a bogus document purporting to show that a sum of Y5000 was to be paid by Shindo to Tobishiki as remuneration for legal services rendered by the latter during the time Shindo was the head of the family. 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THE MACAU BOUNDARY

ACQUISITION IN CHANGSHAI

Cantonese Guild on the Macao boundary. The following telegrams were exchanged between the Guild and the Macao Boundary Protection Society. The Chinese text, M.E. Kao's special Commission to limit the Macao Boundary, arrives in Hong Kong, urge him to stand firm and not to give in to the Portuguese. The Guild to Mr. Yang Tsang, the Macao Boundary question affects the sovereignty and the people's preparation, therefore feel it our duty to help him in holding a meeting and will participate with the Portuguese administration of the Macao Boundary.

[illegible]

the population in Macao necessitated action from the Portuguese Colonial Government; the Governor's action in 1848 was fully justified. The Governor paid his life for his memory in a Macao entirely a Portuguese City, assassinated at the hands of hired ruffians. Now it is said that the Portuguese Government apologized for the delimitation of the frontier entering into the question of the boundary, is trying to put forward territories to which Portugal has no claim. It would appear that those who

So far as it is known, the Portuguese commissioner has not yet arrived, and no

It is to be hoped that the Imperial Government of China will not endorse this demand. The Self-Government Society of Canton is deeply concerned that the Government of Canton should not create trouble between their Government and that of Portugal. After having broadcast the news that we are anxious to withdraw from the Chinese territory, the Imperial Government at this time calls for the abrogation of the Luso-Chinese Convention of 1887, and demands the retrocession of Macao or, in the alternative, the re-imposition of the annual payment of 500,000 taels. We are anxious to see the recognition of China's sovereignty over Macao, and, in the event of Portugal's compliance with these demands, to take steps to enforce them.

to settle, but the expulsion of the P

On our part, we may assume with confidence that we shall not put forward claims which we have no right in the face of history to make. We have no right to demand from the Chinese that Macao and its dependencies be included in the Treaty of 1857 which formed the basis of our negotiations; thirdly, Macao and all places of jurisdiction which have been in effectively occupied by us for centuries or a great many years, with the territorial waters as well as the Law of Nations; will be insured under the Portuguese Commissioner's sole jurisdiction in Portugal.

It is naturally and to think that a place so intimately associated with the immortal names of Xavier and Camões, and to which the Chinese most beneficent, should be made the harbour for the coolie emigration to the East and the West Indies, and since it is the duty of the present, a foster-mother to the Chinese.

But, without the least wishing to put the Portuguese Government's administration to any test, may we say that the Chinese are principally responsible for these economical evils? The Coolie Trade could not have flourished if there were no Chinese brokers to bring the coolies from the interior and coast of China to the ports of the coast of China.

barracoon! and the gambling houses
long have been deserted if there were

We have seen the same thing happen with the Indian opium. The import of this drug into China would not be profitable, if there was no ready market; therefore, there would have ceased to grow in the inland long before the present movement for the suppression of the opium trade in the poppy cultivation in China was on foot.

Macao's inquiry has, indeed, been of a similar character. Portugal has now made a similar inquiry, and has found that, if there were to be no ready market for the drug, more in accord with its glorious works will be undertaken to improve the roads, and—through administrative and liberal trading facilities will be granted to Chinese merchants. The construction of a Canton-Canton railway will be the

the pending denunciation has been
published. No one will profit more by the

[illegible]

See. Should a naval base, therefore, be established at Simpsonhafen, the Australian defence policy would immediately become an "offensive-defensive" one, as was recommended by Sir Edward Mutton in his Minute on Defence of April, 1902.

Under such a policy, immediately upon the creation of a diplomatic strain in Europe in which England and Germany were opposed, the first duty of the Australian Government, acting in conjunction with the Imperial Navy in Australian waters, would be to have in readiness an expeditionary military force to co-operate with the Navy sailing Simpsonhafen, thus closing the only German base in Australia that could be utilised for the purpose of aggression against Australia in the event of Britain's naval power being overcome.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

A CANTON VERSION.

DESPATCHING STORES FROM CHINA.

The Paris edition of the *New York Herald* publishes a telegram from its Canton correspondent stating that it is believed Germany intends to annex an island in the Pacific in order to turn it into a naval base.

This supposition is strengthened by the fact that the Commandant of the German "Squadron" at Canton has shipped on board a German steamer a quantity of food supplies, guns, ammunition, and material for the erection of barracks.

The destination of the vessel is unknown. The British authorities have sent the cruiser *Flores* to watch the German vessel.—*Central News*.

MORPHINE SMUGGLING.

THE LATEST DODGE.

The Chinese chemists who up to a few months ago did a considerable trade in morphine and other opium substitutes until stopped by the Customs people, have, it seems, adopted a new method of late, says a Bangkok paper. They took to getting their morphine put into ordinary but non-leakable envelopes and forwarded to them through the ordinary letter post. This practice appears to have acted very well but the other day an accident happened. The corner of one of the envelopes got broken in Post Office No. 11 and out trickled a little stream of white powder. It was a bit of a mystery to the Postal Officials took it to the Customs, where the stuff was at once recognized as morphine. The envelope was detained and by-and-by others arrived, each similar in appearance and addressed to chemists in the Tai Noi district. There are three of these altogether two of whom are being prosecuted in the Siamese Court and the third in the British.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORTS.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadorie & Co. write on the 8th instant:

"To-morrow being Good Friday, we are issuing our circular a day earlier than usual. A fair investment business has been transacted during the week under review and prices for most stocks have been well maintained. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have weakened slightly to \$2.50, at which rate sales have been effected. But at close, buyers prevail. In London, a firmer feeling exists, and the price has risen to \$2.60.

Marine Insurance.—Canton has been dealt in, in small lots, at \$1.75, and there are more buyers. North China are wanted at \$1.20. Unions are weaker and obtainable at \$2.45. There are buyers of Yangtze at \$1.25, but sellers are not forthcoming at the rate. Fire Insurance.—China Fire is offering at \$1.05. Hongkong Fire is stronger with inquiries at \$1.20.

Shipping.—China and Manilla, after sales at \$7, are required for \$8, without including sellers. Douglases are wanted at \$3.50. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats have been sold during the week at \$2.75, \$2.90, and \$2.95, but at the close there are sellers at the latter rate. Indo-China continue to decline at \$4.00 and \$2.00 for the preferred and deferred shares respectively, but with the better prospects of shipping, buyers are loath to sell at present. Shell transports can be placed at the improved rate of \$5.60.

Refineries.—China Sugars have not fluctuated since we wrote last and are steady at \$1.75, after sales. Luxons are on offer at \$1.70. From latest mail, devices to hand, Perak Sugars are reported sold at \$1.25.

Mineral.—Chinese Engineers are in favour at \$1.15 in the North. Rubbers, after sales at \$8, are obtainable at \$8.

Docks, Wharves, and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharves have shown a further improvement on last week's quotation and have changed hands at \$1.50. Whampoa Docks have been sold at \$2.00. Shanghai Docks are easier with sellers at \$1.60, at which rate they can be had.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Central Stores are in further demand and have found buyers at \$7. Hongkong Hotel have been booked at \$8.00, closing with further inquiries at \$8.40. Hongkong Land have weakened to \$9, at which price business has been done.

phreys Estates are on offer at \$8.25, but buyers can be found at a slightly lower rate. Shanghai Lands have changed hands at the improved rate of \$1.15.

Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons can be secured at \$9. Rows have further declined, and are on offer at \$1.15. According to latest mail advices from the North, changes in other Northern Mills are as follows:—International, \$1.90; buyers. Lau Kong Mow, \$1.10. \$1.05; Cheong T. 400 buyers. \$1.00.

Miscellaneous.—China Borneo have been fixed at \$1.30 the dividend of \$1.20 per share paid on the 5th inst. Providents are offering at \$9. Dairy Farms have been sold, and more are wanted at \$1.40. Green Island Cements are slightly firmer, and after sales at \$1.50 the final dividend of 50 cents per share paid on the 5th inst., are in further demand.

There are buyers of Hongkong Electric at the improved rate of \$1.00. Hongkong Gas have again weakened and can be sold at \$1.00. William Powells and Watsons are both in favour and inquired for at \$2 and \$3 respectively, closing in request. Langkate have sold at \$1.70.

Exchange.—The Bank's selling rate on London is \$1.75 on demand. The T/T rate on Shanghai is \$1.75.

Dividend.—Yangtze, Final of \$12 for 1907 and interim of \$3 for 1908, making in all \$15 per share for 1908, payable in Shanghai on the 7th April. Unions, Final of \$17 for 1907 and interim of \$3 for 1908, making in all \$20 per share payable on the 31st April.

Forward Settlements.—The following dates have been fixed by the Stockbrokers' Association of Hongkong for forward Settlements:—

Settlement: 29th April.
May: 31st May.
June: 30th June.
July: 31st July.
August: 30th August.
September: 30th September.

16th inst.

The market, generally speaking, has remained firm during the week under review, but only a moderate business has been transacted. The principal feature of the week has been the improvement in all shipping shares, especially Indo-China.

Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have ruled steady during the week, and close with buyers at the improved rate of \$2.75. The London price has risen to \$2.75.

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As concerns the revenue of Hongkong and that considerable proportion which is contributed by the Opium Farm, it is seemingly not to be a question of "our money" and other people's money. The practical and matter-of-fact memorandum laid before the Legislative Council of Hongkong by the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, states that Lord Curzon, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has undertaken to ask Parliament for a substantial contribution towards making good the loss in the Colony's revenue in other words, the British taxpayer is to pay for some portion, at least, of the revenue that is entirely contributed by the Opium Farm, and we shall go to the Chinese in their crusade, and we shall go a little ahead of that Government in seeking to eradicate the habit, but if we pass sympathetic resolutions in Parliament we must be prepared to stand our share of the financial consequences thereof. In Hongkong, and the Straits Settlements, the case is different.

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THE steamer *Fudo Maru*, belonging to the Japanese firm which is exploiting Pratas Island, left Yokohama, on the 6th inst. with provisions, to ascertain the situation of the Japanese settlers in Pratas.

Mr. Frederick O'Brien, editor of the *Cable News* (of Manila) arrived in the Colony on the 8th inst. He will visit Canton during his stay here, and leaves for the United States in a few days on a holiday.

THE Chinese Government contemplates appropriating the salt duties to provide funds for the re-organization of the Navy, and the proposition is highly approved by H.E. Shao Ying, Vice-President of the Ministry of Finance.

It is reported that extensive orders for guns, rifles, and ammunition are to be placed in France by the Chinese Government. Members of the Chinese mission are now visiting the principal arms factories in this connection.

THE laying of the foundation stone of the new Mission to Seamen's Institute situated on Praya East, a little to the left of Ardenland Street, will take place on Wednesday, 25th inst. at 5.15 p.m. The ceremony will be performed by H.E. Sir Frederick Lugard.

THE Governor of Kwangsi province has decided on a set of provisional regulations with the French authorities in Indo-China in regard to garrison troops on the frontier and has submitted these regulations for the approval of the Walwupu.

A COMPANY, known as the Imperial Syndicate, has been promoted, having for its object the erection and opening of a skating rink in Shanghai. It appears that the enterprise dates back some months and arrangements are being completed for the opening to take place at an early date.

Mr. F. D. Cloud, Acting Consul-General, Mulken, is said to have emphasized before the home government the importance of fostering trade relations and export for America of the staple products of Manchuria, starting with such articles as wild cocoon silk.

H.E. Chang Jen-chun, Viceroy at Canton, has informed the Walwupu that great indignation has been excited among the Kwangtung people by the Japanese occupation of Pratas Island. He would, therefore, ask the Board to show a strong interest in dealing with the Japanese Ministry in order that a popular demonstration or outbreak may be averted.

THE British steamer *Honghai* (Captain Home) which arrived in port last Tuesday from Singapore, reports that during the course of her voyage, a Chinese passenger jumped overboard. The steamer at once stopped, and after considerable manœuvring, the man was picked up and the vessel proceeded on the remainder of the voyage, which proved uneventful.

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Mr. Frederick O'Brien, editor of the *Cable News* (of Manila) arrived in the Colony on the 8th inst. He will visit Canton during his stay here, and leaves for the United States in a few days on a holiday.

THE Chinese Government contemplates appropriating the salt duties to provide funds for the re-organization of the Navy, and the proposition is highly approved by H.E. Shao Ying, Vice-President of the Ministry of Finance.

It is reported that extensive orders for guns, rifles, and ammunition are to be placed in France by the Chinese Government. Members of the Chinese mission are now visiting the principal arms factories in this connection.

THE laying of the foundation stone of the new Mission to Seamen's Institute situated on Praya East, a little to the left of Ardenland Street, will take place on Wednesday, 25th inst. at 5.15 p.m. The ceremony will be performed by H.E. Sir Frederick Lugard.

THE Governor of Kwangsi province has decided on a set of provisional regulations with the French authorities in Indo-China in regard to garrison troops on the frontier and has submitted these regulations for the approval of the Walwupu.

A COMPANY, known as the Imperial Syndicate, has been promoted, having for its object the erection and opening of a skating rink in Shanghai. It appears that the enterprise dates back some months and arrangements are being completed for the opening to take place at an early date.

Mr. F. D. Cloud, Acting Consul-General, Mulken, is said to have emphasized before the home government the importance of fostering trade relations and export for America of the staple products of Manchuria, starting with such articles as wild cocoon silk.

H.E. Chang Jen-chun, Viceroy at Canton, has informed the Walwupu that great indignation has been excited among the Kwangtung people by the Japanese occupation of Pratas Island. He would, therefore, ask the Board to show a strong interest in dealing with the Japanese Ministry in order that a popular demonstration or outbreak may be averted.

THE British steamer *Honghai* (Captain Home) which arrived in port last Tuesday from Singapore, reports that during the course of her voyage, a Chinese passenger jumped overboard. The steamer at once stopped, and after considerable manœuvring, the man was picked up and the vessel proceeded on the remainder of the voyage, which proved uneventful.

THE Japanese steamer *Natori Maru*, laden with beans, is reported to have sunk at Newchwang on 5th inst.

THE office of the Imperial Russian Consulate has been removed from Prince's Building, to No. 8, Peak Road, "Derlington."

ADMIRAL Sah Chen-ping is consulting with the Government Ministers concerning the possible redemption of Weihaiwei, as it is an excellent harbour for a naval base.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

CAPT. F. A. Twiss has been appointed instructor in gunnery at Hongkong.

CAPT. O. C. Niven, R.G.A., has been selected for service with the Hongkong-Singapore Battalion R.G.A.

CONSUL-GENERAL Amos P. Wilder embarks on board the *Wakamatsu Maru* this evening, proceeding on home leave.

Among the passengers who arrived by the *ss. Yawata Maru* last Monday morning, was Admiral Sir Harry H. Rawson.

According to the provisions of the French Admiralty for 1910, the *Dupleix* will replace the *d'Entrecasteaux* at Saigon.

Mr. J. W. Bandow has been appointed a director of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank during the absence on leave of Mr. G. Friedman.

The King's exequatur empowering Mr. J. H. de Reus to act as Consul-General for the Netherlands at Hongkong has received His Majesty's signature.

The new crew for the surveying ship *Merlin* has left the Albert Dock for Hongkong, where the *Merlin* will be paid off and recommissioned for further service in Chinese waters.

The *Drifter Tagblatt* states that the German cruiser squadron in the Far East is to be reduced to three vessels, and that no substitute will be sent out for the *Niebo*, now on her way home.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Dr. G. M. Harston to be a member of the Medical Board and to serve as secretary during the absence from the Colony of Dr. F. O. Steadman.

Information has been received from the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs that a derelict junk of about 150 tons has been sighted in "Formosa Channel"—Latitude 24° 57' N.; Longitude 119° 55' E.

A TOKIO despatch, of 12th inst., says:—In pursuance of the proceedings that have been taken in the matter of the alleged irregularities in connection with the Japan Sugar Company, extensive domiciliary searches were made yesterday, and not a few persons have been detained for examination in Tokio and Osaka. One former director and one former member of Parliament have been arrested to-day.

A DISTURBANCE took place in the "Sheung Fa" house, at 18, Belcher's Street, West Point, last night. Three men—a cook and two others—in a fit of jealousy, attacked a clerk named Chan Shu Tsun, and savagely assaulted him. They then turned upon a District Watchman, who had been sent for to quell the trouble. He was armed in the Police Court to-day, and one of the defendants was found guilty. He was fined \$15. The others were discharged.

NEARLY a month ago a coolie, by name Chu San, who was arrested, charged, and remanded on a charge of being a rogue and vagabond managed to escape from police custody. Policemen Routledge succeeded, however, in locating the fugitive last Tuesday in an opium den at West Point. On Wednesday, Chu San appeared before the Magistrate on the charge, as follows:—(1) a rogue and vagabond; (2) assaulting a policeman with the intention of securing his release; and (3) with being in possession of illicit opium. The case was remanded.

A CORONER'S inquiry was held at the Magistrate's on the 8th inst. concerning the death of a coolie, Cheng Tin, aged twenty-two, who came to a terrible end at Hongkong on the 2nd ult. According to the evidence Cheng Tin was engaged in undermining a hill, when a rock, weighing about two tons, crashed down the hillside. It struck the unfortunate labourer immediately above the stomach, and crushed him to death. "Accidental death" was the verdict returned. Police Sergeant Watt, of Hongkong Police Station, was present during the proceedings.

MA HOI LIN, the master of the *Kam Tai Un*, a trading junk, was charged in the Police Court, this morning, as follows:—(1) With failing to report the Dangerous Goods Anchorage while having a cargo of dynamite on board; (2) failing to hoist the red flag, giving false particulars to Harbour Office prior to his departure from the Colony on the 4th instant; and (3) with being in possession of a revolver without permission. On all the charges the defendant was found guilty. On the first he was ordered to pay a fine of \$25, and on the fourth the revolver was ordered to be forfeited.

A COAL merchant by name Leung Chin Son, carrying on business at 71, des Vaux Road, was arrested yesterday on a charge of smuggling from baselism. Mr. Otto Kung Sing appeared for the defence. In November last Leung was convicted and sentenced to six months' hard labour for embezzlement. On the expiry of his term he was deported for five years. He returned and set up business again a few days ago. The defence put up on this occasion is that Leung is a British subject and cannot be banished. The case was adjourned in order to secure his birth certificate.

It is stated that in all forty-eight opium shops and stores in Peking have recently been closed by the police.

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ALBERT HERREUX and Paul Fiorer, who are undergoing lengthy sentences in the Shanghai gaol, are to be sent to Hongkong, probably this week, to serve their sentences here.

THE *Chfoo Daily News* states that Mr. A. A. Williamson, American Vice-Consul in charge at Tientsin, will also perform consular duties for Holland in succession to Mr. R. S. Greene.

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Mails.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD, BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINES.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, ANTWERP and HAMBURG	"GODEM" Capt. B. Wilhelm	WEDNESDAY, 21st April.
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, and YOKOHAMA	"DEUTFLINGER" Capt. G. Meisner	About WEDNESDAY, 21st April.

MANILA, YAP, NEWGUINEA, BRISBANE, SYDNEY and MELBOURNE	"PRINCE SIGISMUND" Capt. D. Lenz	THURSDAY, 22nd April, 5 P.M.
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KUDAT and SANDAKAN	"BORNEO" Capt. F. Sembill	Beginning of May.
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For further Particulars, apply to

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.

MELCHERS & CO.,

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL LINES.

FORTNIGHTLY SERVICE TO and FROM EUROPE via SUEZ CANAL.
TO and FROM JAPAN via SHANGHAI.

FOR	STEAMERS	CAPTAINS	TO SAIL ON
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, OCEANIC	ERNEST SIMONS	Glard	26th April, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS	ERNEST SIMONS	Glard	27th April, at 1 P.M.
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, POLYNESIAN	BROU	Broc	10th May, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS	TOKIN	Charbonnel	11th May, at 1 P.M.

Transshipment on the Co's Steamers at Singapore for Batavia; at Colombo for Calcutta, Bombay and Australia; at Port Said for the Levant, Constantinople and Black Sea.

Through Tickets to London via Paris from £27.10 up to £71.10. 30 hours' railway from Marseilles to London.

Interpreters meet passengers at their arrival in Marseilles.

For further particulars, apply to

P. de CHAMPMORIN,

AGENT,

QUEEN'S BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

MESSAGERIES CANTONNAISES.

FRENCH LINE OF STEAMERS BETWEEN HONGKONG, CANTON AND KOUANG-SI.

S.S. "PAUL BEAU," 1,000 tons, 14 knots.
S.S. "CHARLES HARDOUIN," 1,000 tons, 14 knots.

The speediest, most luxuriously appointed and punctual steamers on the line

Departure from Hongkong at 10 P.M. (Saturdays excepted).

Departure from Canton at 5.15 P.M. (Sundays excepted).

These superb steamers carry, on the French Mail are fitted throughout with Electric Light and Fans and were specially built for this trade. Excellent cuisine.

The Company's Own Wharf near Wing Lok Street and its berth in Canton opposite Shamone.

For further particulars, please apply to the COMPANY'S OFFICE at Shamone, Canton, or to their Agents.

BARRETTO & CO., Hongkong.

Hongkong, 9th October, 1908.

HONGKONG-MANILA-
ILOILO-CEBU.

Regular Steamship Service between Hongkong and above ports.

Steamship	Tonnage	Captain	For	Sailing Dates
S.S. "MANDAL"	1,917	Erickson	MANILA	About 20th April, 1909.
S.S. "RIGEL"	1,750	Sierst	Do	About 30th April, 1909.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BARRETTO & CO.

Agents

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

Intimations.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCK CO., Ltd.

No. 1 DOCK.

Length inside 514 ft. Width of entrance, top 95 ft., bottom 75 ft. Water on blocks, 27.5 ft. Time to pump out, 4 hours.

No. 2 DOCK.

Length inside, 875 ft. Width of entrance, top 60.5 ft., bottom 45.8 ft. Water on blocks, 26.5 ft. Time to pump out, 3 hours.

THESE DOCKS are conveniently situated in Yokohama harbour and the attention of Captains and Engineers is respectfully called to the advantages offered for Docking and repairing Vessels and Machinery of every description.

The plant and tools are of recent patterns for dealing quickly and cheaply with work and a large stock of material is always at hand, (plates and angles all being tested by Lloyd's surveyors).

Two powerful Twin Screw Towboats are available for taking Vessels in or out of Dock, and for taking Sailing Vessels in or out of the bay. The floating derrick is capable of lifting 15 tons.

Steam Launches of Steel or Wood, Lighters, Steel Buildings and Roofs, Bridge Work, and all kinds of Machinery are made on the premises.

Tenders will be made up when required and the workmanship and material will be guaranteed.

The cost of Docking, and repair work, will be found to compare favourably with that of any port in the world.

Telephone: Nos. 878, 506, or 681.

Telegrams, "Dock, Yokohama," Codes A. B. O. 4th and 5th Edt.

Liebert, Scotts,

A. I. and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1909.

PHILATELIC NOVELTY
suitable for
PRESENTS.

BAGS OF USED POSTAGE STAMPS.

Containing:

All Asiatic Stamps.	All Chinese Stamps.
4,000 for \$3.00	4,000 for \$4.50
3,000 " 7.00	3,000 " 5.50
2,000 " 5.00	2,000 " 3.50
700 " 2.00	1,000 " 1.50
300 " 1.00	500 " 1.00

Also Stamps in Packets and Sets, and other Philatelic Requisites at prices to suit every body.

VIEW POSTCARDS, ALBUMS, HINGES, RAFAEL TUCK'S TOY BOOKS AND RELIEF SCRAPES, MANILA CIGARS and CIGARETTES, &c., &c., &c.

Inspection invited.

GRACA & CO.,

No. 27, Des Vieux Road.

No. 39, DES VIEUX ROAD CENTRAL.

The only Shop in Hongkong with this name.

WHERE HIGH-CLASS FURNITURE

of every description can be made to order in any design required.

Have been patronized by the Hongkong Club, Hongkong Hotel, Telegraph Co., Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Firms and other leading Establishments in the Colony, to whom reference can be made as to the Superior Workmanship and Materials of the Furniture, &c., supplied.

Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., write as follows:

"We have pleasure in stating that Mr. LI KWONG LOONG furnished the Annex to our Dispensary and gave us every satisfaction."

(Sd.) A. S. WATSON & CO.,

25th May, 1909.

ORDERS punctually attended to, and CHARGES most moderate.

AN INSPECTION INVITED.

Hongkong 4th Avenue, 1908.

Notices of Firms.

HONGKONG & WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE.

MR. T. I. ROSE having resigned the position of Secretary, Mr. G. H. CALDWELL has been appointed ACTING SECRETARY from this date.

By Order of the Board of Directors, H. P. WHITE, Acting Chairman.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1909.

INTERNATIONAL SLEEPING CAR

AND

EXPRESS TRAINS Co.

(THE

GREAT TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE

TO EUROPE.)

HAVING been appointed AGENTS for the above Company, we shall be pleased to give any information as to rates of passage, &c., in connection with above.

SHEWAN, TOMES & CO.

Agents.

Hongkong, 11th July, 1909.

To Let.

TO LET.

SHOP and DWELLING HOUSE, No. 77, Queen's Road, Central.

Apply to—

S. J. DAVID & Co.,

Prince's Buildings.

Hongkong, 25th March, 1909.

TO LET.

NO. 3, CLIFTON GARDENS, CONDUIT ROAD.

A HOUSE in WONG-MEI-CHONG ROAD.

A HOUSE in RIPOW TERRACE.

OFFICES in YORK BUILDING.

GODOWNS in PRAYA EAST, BLUE BUILDINGS, and No. 16, DES VIEUX ROAD next to the Hongkong Hotel.

FLATS in MORSTON TERRACE.

No. 20, DES VIEUX ROAD CENTRAL, 1st Floor.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1909.

TO LET.

NOS. 51, 53, & 55, WONG-NEI-CHUNG ROAD.

Apply to—

HONGKONG & KOWLOON LAND & LOAN CO., LTD.,

No. 8, Queen's Road West.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1909.

TO LET.

GODOWN No. 54, DUNDRELL STREET.

Apply to—

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LD.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1909.

TO LET.

TWO AIRY ROOMS in a house on BELLIOS TERRACE, 1st row, entrance from Robinson Road. Moderate Rental. For particulars, apply to—

"HOUSEHOLDER,"

C/o Hongkong Telegraph.

Hongkong, 5th March, 1909.

TO LET.

OFFICES and ROOMS on the 1st and 2nd Floors of No. 14, Des Vieux Road Central (formerly occupied by Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co.). Rents low.

Apply to—

THE COMPADORE DEPARTMENT,

E. D. SASSOON & Co.,

Queen's Road Central.

Hongkong, 24th February, 1909.

TO LET.

ROOMS suitable for Office in No. 10, ICE HOUSE STREET, in rear of David Sassoon & Co.'s premises.

CHAMBERS with Bathroom and use of Kitchen in No. 31, WYNDHAM STREET known as "College Chambers."

Apply to—

DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, 1st April, 1909.

Dentistry.

TSIN TING.

LATEST METHODS OF DENTISTRY.

STUDIO AT NO. 14, D'ARQUIER STREET.

REASONABLE FEES.

Consultation Free.

Hongkong, 20th June, 1904.

DR. W. H. CHAUN.

THE LATEST METHOD

of the

AMERICAN SYSTEM OF DENTISTRY

in QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

From the University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1909.

PENANG.

THE FATHER OF THE STRAITS.

Penang, the most northern of the Straits Settlements, was the first of the old East India Company's possessions in Malaya, and the great Warren Hastings personally interested himself in its foundation, which event marked a new departure in British policy in these regions. Penang, however, appears to have always been in some degree unfortunate, and one gets the impression that the place has never assumed the importance that its promoters originally intended. Early intentions were good, but fate had a way of intervening to ordain otherwise. It occurs to the visitor that Penang suffers from a grievance, the inheritance of many decades, and there is a feeling of dissatisfaction that other places have acquired the glory which should by right have belonged to Penang, the father of the British Straits Settlements. Penang was born for great things, and was to play no mean part in counteracting Dutch policy in Malaya, but her younger sister, Singapore, founded 25 years later, soon out-distanced her in commercial and maritime greatness. In the early days Penang the elder entertained doubtful feelings of pity and compassion for Singapore the younger, and considered the latter such a weakly child that she suggested it being given to the Dutch. Penang at the time was overflowing with the pride and dignity of the chief township of this far off Indian Presidency, and, sad to relate, but a few years had elapsed before Penang had to suffer the humiliation of seeing the seat of Government transferred to Singapore. Penang was ever ready to complain about the advantages and handicaps of the forced connection with India, and it was always a sore point with her that she was made the dumping ground for Indian convicts. Penang looked forward to the day when, free from Indian control, she could work out her own destiny. When some years later this happy day arrived it was the younger sister who forged ahead, and reaped most of the advantages of the increased trade with the F.M.S. Poor Penang has had a life of disappointments, and now the grumblings are directed against the Government at Singapore, which endeavours to beautify and enlarge the Lion City to the neglect of the needs and demands of Penang.

At the present day Penang is thankful for small mercies, and quite recently, when the Governor of the Straits Settlements paid a visit to the town, which is only one day by sea from Singapore, the event was considered a great honour. Both Penang and people welcomed the Governor with a fervour as though they were not often given this privilege, and an onlooker could only suppose that the visits of the Governor to such a far distant part of his colony were few and far between. The vast amount of business which the Governor performed in the course of a few hours was the subject of favourable comment, and no doubt His Excellency's programme was drawn up on the undisputed fact that a little while in Penang goes a very long way. A short visit to Penang does not impress one favourably, but at the same time, the town probably has its good points like other places in the East. A resident who has his home and friends there, reserves a warm corner in his heart for Penang, and prefers the town to Singapore, but the impartial observer who has had his few days in either town can only marvel at this preference. Penang may improve on acquaintance, but at first sight, it is a city asleep, and possesses few, if any, of the attractions to be found in Singapore, and the large sea ports of India.

Customs are different. Much greater freedom is allowed in dress. All the white men wear the white coat with comfortable military collar attached, and you see no linen collars and ties. This is much cooler as it obviates the necessity for wearing a shirt; a thin vest is all that is necessary underneath the coat. The top is the round white Singapore hat. The Curzon helmet is sadly out of fashion, and at once denotes the visitor, as the quaint Port Said top attracts attention in Bombay. The planters all wear khaki, and the brown shikari top, and the commercial men wear whites. If you have on a collar and a tie then residents put you down at once as a visitor. Concerning the climates Penang is undoubtedly hot, if possible, more trying than Bombay, and perspiration is the order of the day. In the matter of dress Penang goes one better than India in abolishing the stiff collar, but in other respects India pays more attention to the social amenities of life than Penang appears to do. Penang is largely self-centred. It cares little about the outside. A few bristly worded cables keep the residents informed of the passing events of the time, and this apparently meets the case. Penang strikes the visitor as intensely parochial. The problems of empire have lost their significance by the time they reach this island at the mouth of the Straits of Malacca, and Mr. Chamberlain's message "To think imperially" has passed by its shore unheeded.—Times of India Correspondent.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

FROM and after 1st January, 1909, the rates of Subscription to the Hongkong Telegraph (daily and weekly issues) will be as follows:

DAILY—\$55 per annum.
WEEKLY—\$13 per annum.
The rates per quarter and per month, proportional. Subscriptions for any period less than one month will be charged as for a full month.

The daily issue is delivered free when the address is accessible to messenger. Paid subscribers can have their copies delivered at their residence without any extra charge. On copies sent by post an additional \$1.50 per quarter is charged for postage.

The postage on the weekly issue to any part of the world is 30 cents per quarter. Single Copies, Daily, two cents. Weekly, twenty-five cents (for cash only).

(PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.)
There will be no rebate to Missionary Subscribers as heretofore.
By Order,
THE MANAGER,
Hongkong Telegraph Co., Ltd.
Hongkong, and Canton, 1909.

WEATHER-FORECAST AND
STORM-WARNINGS ISSUED
FROM THE HONGKONG
OBSERVATORY.

METEOROLOGICAL SIGNALS.

Meteorological signals are hoisted on the mast in front of the Water Police Station at Tsim Sha Tsui for the information of masters of vessels leaving the port. They do not necessarily imply that bad weather is expected here:—

- Signal No.
1. A CONE point upwards indicates a Typhoon to the North of the Colony.
 2. A CONE point upwards and DRUM below indicates a Typhoon to the North-East of the Colony.
 3. A DRUM indicates a Typhoon to the East of the Colony.
 4. A CONE point downwards and DRUM below indicates a Typhoon to the South-East of the Colony.
 5. A CONE point downwards indicates a Typhoon to the South of the Colony.
 6. A CONE point downwards and BALL below indicates a Typhoon to the South-West of the Colony.
 7. A BALL indicates a Typhoon to the West of the Colony.
 8. A CONE point upwards and BALL below indicates a Typhoon to the North-West of the Colony.

Red Signals indicate that the centre is believed to be more than 300 miles away from the Colony.

Black Signal indicate that the centre is believed to be less than 300 miles away from the Colony.

The above signals will, as heretofore, be hoisted only when typhoons exist in such positions or are moving in such directions that information regarding them is considered to be of importance to the Colony or to shipping leaving the harbour.

These signals are repeated at the Harbour Office, H.M.S. Tamar, Green Island Signal Mast, and the Flagstaff on the premises of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company at Kowloon.

URGENT SIGNAL.

In addition to the above, when it is expected that the wind may increase to full typhoon force at any moment, the following Urgent Signal will be made at the Water Police Station, and repeated at the Harbour Office:—

THREE EXPLOSIVE BOMBS, AT INTERVALS OF TEN SECONDS.

A Black Cross will be hoisted at the same time, superior to the other shapes.

NIGHT SIGNALS.

The following Night Signals will be exhibited from the Flagstaff on the roof of the Water Police Station at Kowloon, the Harbour Office Flagstaff, and H.M.S. Tamar.

I. Three Lights Vertical, Green Green Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated more than 300 miles from the Colony.

II. Three Lights Vertical, Green Red Green, indicates that a typhoon is believed to be situated less than 300 miles from the Colony.

III. Three Lights Vertical, Red Green Red, indicates that the wind may be expected to increase to full typhoon force at any moment.

No. III. Signal will be accompanied by the Explosive Bombs, as above, in the event of the information conveyed by this signal being first published by night.

These Night Signals will be substituted for the Day Signals at sunset, and will, when necessary, be altered during the night.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARNINGS.

For the benefit of Native Craft and passing Ocean Vessels, a Cone will be exhibited at each of the following stations during the time that any of the above Day Signals are hoisted in the Harbour.

Gap Rock	Aberdeen
Waglan	San Ki Wan
Stanley	Sai Kung
Cape Collinson	Sai Tau Kok
	Tai Po

This will indicate that there is a depression somewhere in the China Sea, and that a Storm Warning is hoisted in the Harbour.

Further details can always be given in Chinese, on demand, by signal, from the Light House.

F. G. YOUNG,
Director.

Intimation.



A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

CHEMISTS

BY APPOINTMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE
GOVERNOR AND HOUSEHOLD.

Watson's HYGIENOL, AND BUBONIC PLAGUE!

It has been proved by repeated experiments that "WATSON'S HYGIENOL" is the most potent agent for the destruction of fleas, especially rat fleas.

It has now been proved that Plague is conveyed to human beings by means of fleas from rats which have died of this disease.

All risk of infection can be avoided by washing the floors, etc., or sprinkling where the fleas are likely to be, with a dilute solution of "WATSON'S HYGIENOL." A tea-spoonful to a pint of water, or a tea-cupful to three gallons, makes a solution of the strength required for this purpose.

HYGIENOL IS A POWERFUL DISINFECTANT AND GERMICIDE

Price per Pint.....50 cents
" " Gallon.....\$2.00

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED,
HONGKONG DISPENSARY
AND
KOWLOON DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 17th March, 1909. [28]

NOTICE.

All communications intended for publication in "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" should be addressed to The Editor, 1, The House Road, and should be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address.

Ordinary business communications should be addressed to The Manager.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MS., nor to return any Contribution.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE (IN ADVANCE).
DAILY—180 per annum.
WEEKLY—415 per annum.

The rates for quarter and half year, and for single copies, are as follows:—On copies sent by post, an additional 10 per cent. is charged for postage. The postage on the weekly issue is in any part of the world 80 cents per copy. Single copies, daily, ten cents. Weekly, twenty-five cents (for cash only).

BIRTH.

On February 15, 1909, at Chateau du Mont D'Oisel, Cauze, Dordogne France, the wife of Louis Rocher (Commissioner of Customs, retired), of a son—JEAN.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1909.

CHINA'S CAPABILITIES.

Some writer in the *Shanghai Mercury* has been doing his utmost to malign the Chinese character and their ability. His trouble is about the "regeneration of a decadent race." It is astonishing in these circumstances to find that the Powers do not consider China either a backward country or one given to such foolish transactions as distinguish the principality of Bulgaria. The writer in question is most serious when he says: "The task is the task which China has set herself: the means are Chinese means. Few people have ever stopped to consider the magnitude of the work which China must accomplish before she can attain the object she has at heart and of these few we very much doubt if there is even one who can claim either Chinese or Manchu descent. The task has been begun and its burdens assumed with no clear understanding of the immensity of the labour, the complexity of the scheme, or the world-wide knowledge required for its successful achievement. Let there be light, is the native reformer's cry, but it is altogether another question whether the light will be granted. Of course, it may be taken for granted that the author of such an admission does not mean a disappointed

individual—perhaps, we only suggest it as a reminiscence, a missionary. China, we are told, has to tackle two or three subjects, the first of which is law. The *lex non scripta* cited is referred to, but the unwritten law came not from the visitors but from China herself. Even the American codists admit that. As the writer says on this point: "In calling it unwritten we are following western custom, although of course the term does not apply in one sense, and never has since the introduction of printing, for one of the first things to be committed to the press was a more or less complete selection of legal maxims and treasured judgments. "Unwritten Law," however, is strictly that of which no origin can be traced, as opposed to "Statute Law" of which we know the beginning and the end. Now China has a vast mass of such law, some of it extremely good, and most of it (in theory) admirably suited to Chinese character and requirements. In theory only be it remembered, for a very superficial acquaintance with Chinese proverbial lore is sufficient to show that between the excellence of a law and the excellence of its administration there is a gulf as wide as that between heaven and Hades. It is plain, therefore, that there is a double task before the Chinese in this connection. First they must convert their judges to justice, and secondly they must bring their heterogeneous mass of legal tradition to a modern code, and then collate it with an equally vast mass of western law, for that is what they have set out to do. How many of them have ever put foot within the law library of an up-to-date barrister or solicitor? How many of them know anything at all of the many specialists that there are in connection with western law? And have any of them considered how many Chinese there are fitted for such a task as the compilation of such a code?" This hand of the layman can be deciphered there. And read the ridiculous smiles:—"If we turn to educational matters, the same difficulties confront us. It is hardly too much to say that there is not a Chinaman alive who is competent to draw up a national scheme of education for the kindergarten to the university. There are many Chinese who have graduated from colleges and universities in England, America, and elsewhere, but that does not make them authorities on education any more than travelling by sea makes the captain of a ship a competent naval architect." Any body can see the futility of such a remark. Fortunately the Chinese themselves are not obsessed by the idea of their own importance. Indeed the Chinese can see things clearly. Surely, the very fact that they send students at the Government expense to Europe and America is proof positive that their alleged decadence is a myth. Another thing: "It is probably unknown to China the extent to which the European nations have drawn upon each other for help in this respect. American development has been very largely built on the ability of the men she got from England. At this moment there are many English professors in her colleges. Now she is returning the benefit in a hundred different ways. The same is true of the relationship of England with other lands. We learnt silk work from France, and wool from Holland. In return we taught them railway construction and so on. Hundreds of other instances might be adduced. If then China were to call in skilled assistance from the outside she might then make her start on the right lines, and everything depends on that. Japan did so. Without expert help we are convinced that China's efforts must end in failure, and then will be proved the truth of the prophecies of her enemies, that she is incapable of progress and must be treated accordingly." And this is the nation that is supposed to be decadent. Our only wonder is that the *Mercury* should have given publicity to such statements founded on sand and built on hypothesis. China was never more virile or vigorous than she is at the present time and to paraphrase an old saying, China will be China when nations (of the West) peter out.

AN explosion took place on the 10th inst. in a private magazine in Osaka. The neighbouring houses were smashed, and a fire broke out. Thirty persons were killed and severely were injured.

THE Japanese Minister in Peking has communicated with the Waiwupu complaining of the violent attitude of the Chinese press in Canton on the Pratas Island question, which excites the people against Japanese, and he requests the Chinese Government to forbid them from continuing this agitation.

THE new building in Bishopsgate-street for the head offices of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, erected on the site of the old Crosby Hall, has been completed by the contractors within the time allowed, and is now ready for occupation. The removal into the new premises took place on 27th ult. and business commenced to be transacted from the 29th ult.

A special meeting of the Geographical Society in Berlin on 12th ult. the Emperor and Empress being present, Dr. Sven Hedin read a paper concerning his last journey through Tibet. The traveller was presented with the Humboldt medal. Their Majesties subsequently received him in their private box, where the Emperor bestowed the Grand Gold Medal for Science on him.

A CHARGE of uttering a forged five dollar banknote was preferred against a coolie named Ko Tsung, in the Police Court, this afternoon. The defendant, it would appear, attempted to palm off the bill to a certain firm in the Colony. Mons. P. Dulac, cashier of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine, pronounced the bill a forgery, because of the absence of the watermark. The case was remanded.

A TOKIO despatch, of 12th inst. says:—In pursuance of the proceedings that have been taken in the matter of the alleged irregularities in connection with the Japan Sugar Company, extensive domiciliary searches were made yesterday, and not a few persons have been detained for examination in Tokio and Osaka. One former director and one former member of Parliament have been arrested to-day.

UNDER the new reorganisation and distribution of the fleet there will be no change in the composition or distribution of the ships of the China Squadron, or, for that matter, in any of the squadrons in the East, thereby confirming what was stated in these notes months ago re the rumours of the contemplated establishing of a battle squadron in Far Eastern waters. Nothing of the kind may be expected whilst the present Government is in power.

A DISTURBANCE took place in the "Sheung Fa" house, at 18, Belcher's Street, West Point, last night. Three men—a cook and two others—in a fit of jealousy, attacked a clerk named Chan Shau Tsun, and savagely assaulted him. They then turned upon a District Watchman, who had been sent for to quell the trouble. They were arraigned in the Police Court, to-day, and only one of the defendants was found guilty. He was fined \$5. The others were discharged.

MA HOI LEE, the master of the *Kam Tai Un*, a trading junk, was charged in the Police Court, this morning, as follows:—(1) With failing to go to the Dangerous Goods Anchorage while having a cargo of dynamite on board, (2) failing to hoist the red flag, (giving false particulars to Harbour Office prior to his departure from the Colony on the 4th instant, and (3) with being in possession of a revolver without permission. On all the charges the defendant was found guilty. On the first he was ordered to pay a fine of \$5, and on the fourth the revolver was ordered to be forfeited.

A COAL merchant by name Leung Chin Sow, carrying on business at 71, Des Vaux Road, was arrested yesterday on a charge of returning from banishment. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the defence. On November last Leung was convicted and sentenced to six months' hard labour for embezzlement. On the expiry of his term he was deported for five years. He returned and set up business again a few days ago. The defence put up on this occasion is that Leung is a British subject and cannot be banished. The case was adjourned in order to secure his birth certificate.

ACTING Inspector of Junks Rocha prosecuted the master, Chim Yau, of trading junk No. 5834, in the Police Court, to-day, with exporting arms and ammunition from this Colony without the sanction from the authorities. As everybody knows every trading junk is allowed to carry a certain number of arms and ammunition, a list of which is contained in the licence. When 5834 returned from a trip yesterday, her "armory" was inspected, with the result that it was discovered that two pistols, two breech loaders, 100 B.L. cartridges, and thirteen pounds of powder were missing. The suspicion arose that the junk master had disposed of the goods to "pirates." As he was unable to give a satisfactory account of the loss, he was arrested. The case was remanded.

As concerns the revenue of Hongkong and that considerable proportion which is contributed by the Opium Farm, it is seemingly not to be a question of "our morals and other people's money." The practical and statesmanlike memorandum laid before the Legislative Council of Hongkong by the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, states that Lord Crews, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has undertaken to ask Parliament for a substantial contribution towards making good the loss in the Colony's revenue in other words, the British taxpayer is to pay for some portion, at least, of the vices that he asked other people to abstain from. Our sympathies are entirely with the Chinese in their crusade, and we shall go a little ahead of that Government in seeking to eradicate the habit, but if we pass sympathetic resolutions in Parliament we must be prepared to stand by them in the financial consequences thereof in Hongkong, and the Straits Settlements.—L. G. C. Express.

CIVIL SERVICE CRICKET CLUB.

NEW PAVILION OPENED.

Yesterday afternoon, a very interesting ceremony was performed by H.E. the Governor, who, a handsome pavilion in place of the match which had hitherto done duty for the pavilion of the Civil Service Cricket Club was opened, under very auspicious conditions. There was a large gathering of members and friends who came to witness the ceremony. H.E. the Governor, who was accompanied by Capt. P. Mitchell, Taylor, A.D.C., and Capt. Simson, Private Secretary, was met on arrival by Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, President of the Club. Among those present were Hon. Mr. F. H. May (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Dr. A. J. Simson, Mrs. Chatham, Miss Chatham, Mr. Justice Gompertz, and Mrs. Gompertz, Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, Mr. R. O. Hutchison, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. Clark, Mr. Arratoon Seth, Mr. J. R. Wood, and Mr. Gray Scott.

On approaching the Club-house, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, His Excellency was presented with a silver key which bore the following words in engraved letters:—"Presented to His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.G., by the Civil Service Cricket Club, April 15th, 1909."

The President of the Club, addressing the Governor, said:—Your Excellency, it is my agreeable duty to ask you to open the Civil Service Cricket Club pavilion which has been erected by the members by the money raised among themselves. The fact that they have succeeded in raising the sum to erect such a handsome building proves that they have very real live interest in their Club, and I hope it may long continue. Your Excellency's presence will stimulate that interest. I would ask your Excellency to open the building.

His Excellency then replied as follows to the gathering:—Ladies and Gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in opening this pavilion, and I wish success to the Civil Service Cricket Club. I hope you will witness from this charming pavilion many excellent matches, and that the Club will continue to prosper as it has done in the past. I have now very much pleasure in opening the building (Cheers).

His Excellency then unlocked the door with the silver key with which he was presented, after which, His Excellency asked those present to drink to the success of the Civil Service Cricket Club.

The toast having been honoured, Hon. Mr. Chatham thanked His Excellency for proposing success to the Civil Service Cricket Club, and asked the gathering to give three cheers for His Excellency, which were lustily accorded, together with a "tiger."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, games of lawn bowls and tennis were played, at which H.E. the Governor was an interested spectator.

DESTRUCTIVE GALE IN KOBE.

SEVERAL FATALITIES.

The *Japan Chronicle*, of 9th inst. says:—Further details of the gale on Tuesday night are to hand and prove that the damage inflicted was greater than at first supposed, and was not confined to Kobe. A two-storied school building containing four class rooms, and covering 50 tatso of land, which was in course of construction as a new wing of the Shinyo Elementary School at Higashi-Shirike, Hyogo, was blown down. The debris fell upon the old building which it was to replace and crushed one of the class-rooms. The new building was expected to be completed on the 30th instant. The contracted cost of the building was about ¥5000.

The building of the Hadase Iron Works at Wakonohama, Kobe, also collapsed. It covered 75 tatso of land.

The damage along the Anshin Electric tramway is very serious. The Fukaya Station building was blown down; a building belonging to the Japan Sogo Company at Matsuzaki also collapsed. At Sumiyoshi several houses came down. The country seat belonging to Mr. Rokuma of Nishinomoto, which was in course of construction, suffered a like fate.

Osaka was also a victim of the storm. The galvanised iron roof of the fertilizer factory belonging to the Settsu Oil Company at Nishinada was carried away while the chimney of the alcohol factory at Higashinocho, Nishinada, collapsed, as did also the boiler factory of the Osaka Iron Works at Ajikawa-dori, covering 18 tatso of land, together with a high detached chimney. The factory of the Naigai Asphalt Company at Shimo-Fukushima was damaged, the roof being blown down and many factory chimneys collapsed. A number of fishing boats were wrecked off Sakai and Kishiwada, two men being drowned while nine are missing.

Kyoto has also suffered, fences and roofs being blown down, besides factory chimneys. The scaffolding on the *jamman* (a high gate) in front of the Daiichi temple of the Eastern Horagawa temple, Kyoto, which was in course of repair, collapsed, a pair of large bronze *torii* and the bronze work of the bridge near by being crushed. The damage in this case is estimated at about ¥14,000.

The effect of the gale seems to have been widespread. The 8.30 train from Utsunomiya, Tokyo, on the Nippon line, was caught in a storm between Nouchi and Uramachi, and two mail cars, a brake van, two third-class carriages, a first and second-class composite bogie and a third-class bogie-car were overturned and a brake van derailed. The engine remained on the rails. One of the passengers was killed, five passengers, a mail clerk, and a train conductor were severely injured, and eighteen passengers and a train boy slightly injured.

Storms are reported from Wakayama, Nagano, Utsunomiya, Shizuoka, Gunma, Niigata, Nagasaki, Sendai, Kanazawa, and other places, the rivers overflowing in many places. An up train which left Kanazawa at 5.30 p.m. on the 10th instant struck a large rock which had fallen on the rails between Tsuruga and Hita, and the engine was damaged, the train having to return to Tsuruga. The arrival of the train at Maibara was delayed for two hours.

At Shimomaki, Shiga, a number of coal barges were sunk in the river, the barges being blown away and three persons drowned.

PRIZES AND FLOUNCES.

DISPUTE OVER LADY'S DRESS ENDED.

The action brought by Yan Lee, the tailor of Dagellar Street, against Lottie Kingsbury, of Wellington Street, to recover \$10.75, the price for the making up of a dress, and the cost of the material, was concluded before Mr. Justice Gompertz, in the Supreme Court, to-day. During the adjournment it would seem that the parties approached each other with a view to a settlement, which could not be obtained.

When the case was called, the judge asked whether the matter had been settled. Lottie Kingsbury, who has acquired an American twang, replied in the negative. She said that the tailor had called on her and asked for \$10.75. She offered him \$5, which he refused to take. "I asked him to sign the bill," she added, "but he would not." He wanted this money and would not sign the bill. He knows I have money and he wanted to fool me.

The tailor admitted that he had returned the woman the extra piece of silk, but he could not see why he should be taxed with the cost of the material—an extra \$2.20.

The judge—Can't you see your way to making a reduction in your bill considering that the dress will not fit?

The tailor carefully avoided the question, and asked: Ask her to put on the dress in Court and you will see that it is already worn out.

Miss Kingsbury reiterated that the dress would not fit properly. The skirt was passable, but, oh, the blouse! In order to make it proper a new collar was wanted and new "flounces" (if that was the word) put on. Then turning to the mask and mid-looking tailor, whose bump on his forehead, alleged to have been inflicted by the lady, appears to be getting more prominent, Miss Kingsbury demanded: Did you ever see me wear the dress? Have you any witnesses to prove what you have said?

The judge (to the tailor)—Have you any witnesses to say that they saw her wear the dress?—Yes.

Who are they?—My folks.

When was the dress delivered?—About ten weeks ago.

The dress could scarcely be worn out by now. Did you see her wear the dress?—Yes. I saw her in the dress at the Magistracy when I prosecuted her for striking me.

Miss Kingsbury—I put it on to try it. Can't I do that?

The judge—Did you put it on to go to the Magistracy?—No. I took it there with me as evidence.

Did the magistrate express any opinion as to whether the dress fitted or not? (Laughter.)—Avoiding the question, Miss Kingsbury started out to criticize the dress once more, when she was brought up by the judge with: What kind of a dress did you wear to go up to the Magistracy?—The reply was: "White."

In conclusion, Mr. Justice Gompertz said that it was not possible for him to decide whether the dress was a pr. per fit or not. The plaintiff said it was not. He would, however, give judgment for the plaintiff in the original action for \$10.75 and for the defendant in the cross-action.

THE PRATAS ISLAND QUESTION.

A JAPANESE REPORT.

According to a member of the crew of the *Fudo Maru*, which has just arrived in Yokohama from Pratas Island, (says the *Japan Advertiser* of April 4) there was only one Chinese sailing-vessel there. There seemed to be nothing unusual. The island is only about eight miles in circumference and its height above sea level is some forty feet. It had practically no products. When Mr. Nishizawa the year before last discovered the island, he took a large number of labourers with him to work sulphur deposits there. The number now employed is between 140 and 150. They are mostly natives of the Loochoos and Formosa. There are also some 20 Fenchow Chinese on the island. According to a vernacular paper published in Fenchow, the British and American Governments some years ago proposed the erection by China of a light-house on Pratas Island, but although a steamer was dispatched to investigate the locality nothing was ever done in the matter. However, on February 11 of the present year, another vessel was sent to resume investigations, and it was then first discovered that the island was inhabited by Japanese and Formosans.

They had erected military storehouses, shops, coal-sheds, piers, and telegraph-poles. The circumstances were reported to the Chinese Government and a gunboat carrying officials proceeded there on the 18th. Their negotiations with the Japanese, however, were unsuccessful. A British vessel navigating in this region some years ago had anchored off the island during a typhoon, and the island was named after Mr. Pratas, captain of the vessel. Later on, the paper says, Japanese occupied the island and arbitrarily changed its name to Nishizawa Island. They also drove away the Chinese fishermen on the island and confiscated the fishing apparatus.

JAPANESE PRESS OPINIONS.

The *Kokumin Shinbun* says that the Japanese Government will act moderately and carefully in the matter of Pratas Island, and no early settlement can be expected. The Formosan Government will also produce papers on the subject. The investigations, in the meantime will not affect the Japanese enterprise peacefully started in the island. It may, however, be emphasized that Japan will not hesitate to recognize Chinese ownership if the proofs produced by China are valid, on the understanding that she will duly protect the Japanese enterprise.

The *Hongkong correspondent*, telegraphing on the 5th instant, says that the Kwangtung-Straits Government Association has passed the following resolutions on the Pratas Island question:—

(a) That the affairs should be fully reported to all the Chinese people, so as to secure unanimity in their protest.

(b) That the attention of the Government should be called to the protection of the fisheries and production of the island, and the danger of the island being taken over by the Japanese.

(c) Should the Government not make any effort to secure Chinese rights in the island, a formal protest should be initiated by the people themselves.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

TANG SHAO-YI.

ARRIVAL IN ST. PETERSBURG.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 15th April.

Tang Shao-yi has arrived in St. Petersburg, and will shortly return to China by the Trans-Siberian route.

EMPEROR KWANG-SU'S FUNERAL.

ACCOMMODATION OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 15th April.

The Waiwupu has telegraphed to Lord Li Ching-fong, Chinese Minister to the Court of St. James, to ascertain what was the treatment accorded to the representatives of the various Powers on the occasion of the funeral of the late Queen Victoria.

CHINESE CONSULATES.

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT IN DUTCH POSSESSIONS.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 15th April.

The Waiwupu has decided to establish consulates in Dutch colonial possessions and has telegraphed to the Chinese Minister to the Netherlands to inquire and report on the ports where it is deemed expedient consulates should be established.

PRINCE CHING.

RESUMES DUTIES.

[By courtesy of the "Shuang Po"]

Peking, 15th April.

Prince Ching, having returned from his leave of absence, has since resumed his duties.

CANTON DAY BY DAY.

DELIMITATION OF MACAO.

[From Our Own Correspondent]

Canton, 15th April.

The Society for the Protection of Boundary Rights in Canton has been in receipt of a telegram from the people of Wuchow, in which they expressed their willingness and readiness to render all possible assistance to the Society in connection with the delimitation of Macao. In the message they informed the Society that they have appointed Wong Pak Ho to be their representative.

Another mass meeting has been arranged by the Society for the Protection of Boundary Rights to be held on Sunday next, the 18th instant, in connection with the question of the delimitation of Macao.

CHINA'S SCHOLARS.

In accordance with instructions received from the Imperial Government the Viceroy has issued a proclamation, informing those who have received their education in foreign countries and have obtained the degrees of Ke Yen and Chun Si, now in Kwangtung, to present themselves at an examination to be held in the Capital on the 10th day of the 4th moon.

BANDITS TO BE DEFEATED.

On receipt of a report from Brigadier-General Wong Pui Tung, stationed at Ke Chow, the Viceroy has given instructions that the forty-eight bandits who had surrendered to the Brigadier-General and offered to help the authorities to effect the capture of the other outlaws, should all be beheaded, owing to their failure to fulfil their obligation.

BLACKMAILERS AGAIN.

On the 9th instant a blackmailing letter supposed to be sent by robbers was delivered to the household of the President of the Ministry of Law, H. K. Tai Hung Sh, in Fatsan, of which H. K. Tai is a native. In the letter the robbers demanded a sum of \$10,000, with threats to both the recipients' dwellings, should the money not be forthcoming. The matter has been reported to the local officials with the original letter for their information.

CONTEMPLATED ATTACK BY OUTLAWS.

Urgent telegraphic reports reaching Canton yesterday from the officials of Pok Lo, to the effect that the local bandits are now contemplating attack on the city and that they should be sent from Canton without loss of time to the spot to quell the bandits. The Canton authorities are now preparing to send a detachment of troops to Pok Lo to battle the lawless ones in their nefarious plans.

MOTHER DIVERS BIRTH TO TRIPLETS.

It is interesting to note that a mother who was in Fatsan at Fook-Tai last year gave birth to three boys, almost exactly a year ago. The triplets are said to be enjoying the best of health. A number of people, especially doctors, who were interested in the occurrence, called on the mother and her children.

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

CHINA MERCHANTS S. N. CO.

CONTEMPLATED OFFICIAL CONTROL.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

As soon as Viceroy Young Shi-chang arrives in Peking, it is proposed by the Ministry of Posts and Communications to arrange for taking over the management of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co.

WEN TSUNG YAO.

ARRIVAL IN TIBET.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

Wen Tsung-yao (formerly foreign secretary to the Viceroy at Canton, now Junior Amban in Tibet, has reported his arrival in Tibet.

He recommends that H.E. Chiu I-fong, Senior Amban, should be urged to proceed to Lhasa.

SIK LIANG.

ARRIVAL IN PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

H.E. Sik Liang, Viceroy designate of the Three Eastern Provinces, arrived in Peking yesterday.

PRINCE CHING.

ON SICK LEAVE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

Prince Ching is on sick leave. His Highness is suffering from pains in the side.

ENGLAND AND SIAM.

THE RECENT TREATY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

The Waiwupu regards the recently-concluded Treaty between Great Britain and Siam as detrimental to the interests of Chinese residents in Siam and proposes to take measures to improve the interests of Chinese subjects there.

FOREIGNERS IN MONGOLIA.

TRAVELLING PRIVILEGE CURTAILED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po"]

Peking, 14th April.

The Central Government has telegraphed instructions to the Three Eastern Provinces to prevent foreigners from travelling in Mongolia.

Viceroy Hsu Shi-chang has telegraphed, in reply, stating that it would be difficult to comply with the instructions lest the friendly feelings of the Powers might be offended.

CHINA'S NAVAL SCHEMES.

NEW SUGGESTIONS.

In connection with the reorganization of the Imperial Navy, the Chinese Government has made the following suggestions:—

1. That the different Viceroy and Governor be ordered to suggest the best means of raising a special fund by an additional impost.
2. That an increase of land taxes be levied as once for the initial expenses of the navy.
3. That an increase of duty on tobacco, wine, sugar and a house tax be levied for a fund towards the annual expenses.
4. That a subscription fund be started by awarding ranks of nobility to subscribers.
5. That a national loan be raised from among the Chinese residents abroad in the South Pacific Islands.
6. That foreign loans be raised.
7. That the China Merchants Company's fleet be subsidized for transport service in time of war.
8. That vessels be commissioned to protect fishing craft on the coast, and that the latter should pay a tax towards the Navy.—M. C. D.

CLUB-MEMBER SORD.

FAILING TO PAY HIS CONTRIBUTION.

A claim was brought before Mr. Justice Gompertz, in the Supreme Court, this morning, by E. A. M. Williams against D. McCullum to recover the sum of \$15 which was due to the St. George's Club.

Mr. P. W. Goldring, appearing for the plaintiff, the liquidator, said that defendant was a member of the club, and under the rules it was compulsory, in the event of the club going into liquidation, for each member to contribute \$25 towards the club's assets. The defendant had not paid his contribution.

Mr. Justice Gompertz:—Was he a member when the club went into liquidation?—Yes.

Judgment was entered for plaintiff, in the absence of the defendant.

HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

MR. YIGO'S VISIT TO MANILA.

The Singapore Free Press writes editorially:—A statement of importance was made before the Hongkong Legislative Council at its last meeting with reference to the Observatory, its relations with the Manila Observatory, and its apparatus for recording and predicting weather warnings. Probably only a few of our readers have noted, down below the local weather report, a number of lines of more or less cryptic significance, giving the place of origin of the telegram, the time of its despatch, with particulars of the barometer, wind, temperature, humidity, sky and rain at the place. Whenever a typhoon comes into the region of the Observatory, a code word is appended giving its approximate position, direction of movement, and any available particulars. These wires come twice or thrice daily from Hongkong and Manila, and are transmitted by the Telegraph Company free of charge, and published for the use of mariners bound eastward from Singapore, and like to meet weather determined by these conditions. Fortunately, the neighbourhood between here and Hongkong is not so very bad for mariners, except in occasional typhoon seasons, but careful mariners keep an eye on the conditions that are shown to prevail at Hongkong and Manila, and apply to them the law of storms. Less careful captains trust to the experienced eye cocked over the weather bow, and to the barometer carried on board the vessel. If the weather telegrams are of use in only a small circle, yet when one considers that it may mean the salvation of a ship to know what weather she is likely to run into, the care and trouble taken to give the information are justified. In the Straits we are dependent on Hongkong and Manila. Those two stations are intimately connected in meteorological work, and a recent visit paid by the Director of the former to Manila led to the Governor of Hongkong making a long statement, asking for a vote for additional instruments. The nature of the organization from which we gain advantage is indicated by the following extract from Sir Frederick Lugard's speech:—

The Manila Observatory costs about \$145,000 per annum to maintain, and the staff consists of one director, three assistant directors, a secretary and librarian, and ten native observers, calculators, draughtsmen, and mechanics. There are some forty out-stations in the archipelago connected with headquarters. Some of them report three times a day, some twice a day, in the ordinary observation hours between six a.m. and seven p.m. Father Algue agreed that the primary object in view for improving the information regarding typhoon warnings, is that there should be as many stations as possible and the creation, if possible, of more stations and the more frequent despatch of observations from existing stations. In this connection he promised to send extra observations from other stations in the Philippines whenever the station at April should be interrupted, which unfortunately frequently occurs. He also said he would send any information which might be useful in the determination of the position of typhoon centres. Mr. Figg, on his part, promised to send extra observations here whenever they might be required by the Manila Observatory, the Manila Government defraying the cost of transmission. It is satisfactory to find that Mr. Figg, the Director of the Hongkong Observatory, and Father Algue of the Manila Observatory, are in entire agreement that "the chief reliance for the early prediction of storms must be placed on observations of barometer, wind, and weather telegraphed promptly from surrounding areas." To aid that, by the courtesy of the American Government it is hoped that a wireless telegraph station will be placed on San Domingo de Basco, and that warships cruising in the waters should communicate to the Observatory any observations they may make that will be of use in forecasting storms.

OPIMUM CULTIVATION IN INDIA.

Mr. Rees asked the Under-Secretary for India whether, in view of the fact that the Indian peasant paid the bill, the Government would exact the clearest and most irrefutable proof that China was *pari passu* with India in reducing her opium cultivation, before India was called upon to the prejudice of her own revenues and her own taxpayers, to make reductions which, in the absence of such proof, must result in transferring business from Indian to Chinese growers of the drug.

Mr. Buchanan: The present arrangement for the progressive restriction of the export of opium from India holds good to the end of 1910. The Chinese Government, are aware that the extension of the present arrangement will depend on satisfactory evidence being given that the production of opium has been correspondingly reduced in China.

Mr. Rees: May we hope that there will be some evidence besides that of Chinese official assurances?

Mr. Buchanan: We will take care that that point is considered.

"HIT WITH A BRICK."

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES AGAINST A CONTRACTOR.

Mr. C. Sequiera, a ticket collector in the employ of the "Star" Ferry Company, Limited, has entered an action against Lam Woo, a contractor, for damages, which, it is alleged, was due to the negligence of defendant's servants. The claim is for \$1,000 for injuries sustained by the plaintiff, and the case is set down for hearing in a fortnight's time, pleadings having been ordered to be filed.

Lam Woo has the contract for erecting a building in Pedder Street, and it is stated that one Sunday morning while plaintiff and some lady friends were passing the building a loose brick became dislodged and fell, striking plaintiff on the head.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell) appears for the plaintiff. The defendant is represented by Mr. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon).

GERMANY IN THE PACIFIC.

COALING BASE CONTEMPLATED.

ANXIETY IN AUSTRALIA.

Considerable excitement has been roused recently in Australia in regard to the impression that Germany is about to create a naval base at Simpsonhafen, in New Britain (or New Pomerania, as it has been re-named by the German Government). Australian anxiety is easily explained, because that island is off the north-east coast of New Guinea and within a short distance of the Australian coast. It is admitted by German Consular representatives in Australia that the transfer of the headquarters of the German Government in the Western Pacific from Herberthöhe to Simpsonhafen has been decided upon. The two places are only a few miles apart, the reason of the change being that Herberthöhe has no harbour, while Simpsonhafen is a fine landlocked port.

At the same time, it is denied that there is a single piece of cannon or anything remotely resembling a fortification in the whole colony, nor is there any intention of establishing a naval base.

On the other hand, an Australian who has been resident in New Britain declared in a newspaper interview, which has been given great prominence in the Australian Press, that Germany does intend to create a naval base at Simpsonhafen. The facts of the case, according to this authority, are these:—

Four years ago the Germans started to establish coaling stations at Simpsonhafen, which is admirably adapted for the purpose, being a landlocked harbour, surrounded by high hills, suitable for fortification, and possessing a narrow entrance that can be easily defended by mines.

Then the North German Lloyd Company erected a wharf far larger than was necessary for their requirements and capable of accommodating the largest warships. The land at the back of the jetty has been reserved by the German Government for the purpose of docks and workshops.

The gentleman who gave these facts to the Press states that his information on this point was obtained direct from German officials. Immense wharfage accommodation already exists, and a big block of land has also been set aside where coal can be stored on an enormous scale.

A CONFIDENT PREDICTION.

"I am confident," this informant concludes in the interview mentioned, "that within a month Simpsonhafen, owing to its peculiar formation, could be fortified and rendered practically impregnable. When we are told that the elaborate plans at Simpsonhafen are not ultimately for the benefit of German warships, it sounds to me like an attempt to hoodwink the people of Australia."

"Simpsonhafen is not wanted as a naval base, to-day, but the time is rapidly approaching when, if Germany wants such a convenience in the Pacific, she will have it exactly where it will best suit her purposes."

The Commonwealth Defence Department has already considered the question. It is recognised that Simpsonhafen could become a serious danger spot in the case of Germany increasing her naval strength to such an extent as to be able to conduct operations in distant seas. Should a naval base, therefore, be established at Simpsonhafen, the Australian defence policy would immediately become an "offensive-defensive" one, as was recommended by Sir Edward Hutton in his Minute on Defence of April, 1902.

Under such a policy, immediately upon the creation of a diplomatic strain in Europe in which England and Germany were opposed, the first duty of the Australian Government, acting in conjunction with the Imperial Navy in Australian waters, would be to have in readiness an expeditionary military force to co-operate with the Navy seizing Simpsonhafen, thus closing the only German base in Australia that could be utilised for the purpose of aggression against Australia in the event of Britain's naval power being overcome.—*Pall Mall Gazette*

A CANTON VEREION.

DESPATCHING STORES FROM CHINA.

The Paris edition of the *New York Herald* publishes a telegram from its Canton correspondent stating that it is believed Germany intends to annex an island in the Pacific in order to turn it into a naval base.

This supposition is strengthened by the fact that the Commandant of the German Squadron at Canton has shipped on board a German steamer a quantity of food supplies, guns, ammunition, and material for the erection of barracks.

The destination of the vessel is unknown. The British authorities have sent the *Colony* to watch the German vessel.—*Canton News*

COMMERCIAL YARN.

In their report dated 1st April, Messrs. Philpotts & Pelt & Co.

Our last circular was issued on 2nd inst. The reasoning prospects of the yarn market, as indicated in the last report, have not been (taking into account the heavy tonnage under review). With the return of native dealers to the Colony from the interior, after the observance of their customary rites at the ancestral "lombs," inquiries have flowed in in a steady stream, running principally on the most fancied spinners of Nos. 100 and 125. With a continuance of demand the yarn market has ruled strongly throughout the past fortnight and prices have moved upwards from one to three dollars per bale.

Besides purchases for immediate requirements, which have gone into the consuming districts, thus assisting in further reducing the steadily diminishing small stock, it is satisfactory to note that a large number of settlements have been effected on the basis of cargo "to arrive." The outlook is bright, and market buoyancy is certain to be maintained with the firmness of importers not to undersell one another.

No. 25.—A good business is reported at an advance \$1 to \$1 per bale.

No. 100.—Steady at quotations.

No. 125 and 150.—A good inquiry. Prices show an advance of \$1 to \$1 per bale.

No. 85.—Stock all.

No. 95.—Moderate business at an advance of \$1 per bale.

Market closes firm. Sales—200 bales of No. 65, 3,815 bales of No. 100, 1,400 bales of No. 125, 300 bales of No. 150, and 2,375 bales of No. 200, in all about 8,000 bales.

Arrivals.—Per steamers *Japan*, *Ichia*, *G. A. Pear*, *Namang*, *Kagahima Maru*, *China* and *Assaye* of about 5,000 bales.

Unsold Stock.—About 12,000 bales.

Exchange.—We quote to-day as follows:—

India T. T. at Rs. 131 per cent.

Demand " " 131 1/2

London T. T. "Sh." 18 1/2

Demand " " 18 1/2

Shanghai " " Tls. 74 1/2

Silver " " 29 1/2 per oz.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORT.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. write this afternoon:—

The market, generally speaking, has remained firm during the week under review, but only a moderate business has been transacted. The principal feature of the week has been the improvement in all shipping shares, especially Indo-Chinese.

Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have ruled steady during the week, and close with buyers at the improved rate of \$910. The London price has risen to 287.

Marine Insurance.—Cantons are slightly firmer and are quoted at 187 1/2. North China are stronger, and reported sold in the North at Tls. 105. There are sellers of Unions at \$340.

According to latest mail advices Yangtze is wanted in the North at \$225, but no shares are obtainable under \$300.

Fire Insurance.—China Fires are again easier and have been sold at 104. Hongkong Fires continue in request at \$320, and could possibly be placed at a higher rate.

Shipping.—China and Manilla have experienced a further rise and close with buyers at \$10. Sales of Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats have been effected at \$20 and more are required for \$30. Douglas's continue in demand at \$35 without inducing sellers. Shell Transports have strengthened to 56 1/2 with buyers. Owing to a sudden demand having set in from the North, Indo-Chinese rapidly rose to 70, but only a few shares have changed hands.

Refineries.—China Sugars have not fluctuated and are quiet at \$137 1/2. In the North Perak sugars have hardened and were sold at the improved rate of Tls. 124.

Mining.—Chinese Engineerings are weaker at Tls. 18, at which rate they are obtainable. Raubers are offering at \$8.

Docks, Wharves, and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharf have been sold at \$51 1/2 and \$51, and more can probably be had at the latter rate. Whampoa Docks have been dealt in at \$80. Shanghai Docks are easier at Tls. 83 after sales at the rate. Hongkong Wharves are in demand at the slightly reduced rate of Tls. 164.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—There are buyers of Anglo-French Lands in the North at Tls. 100, and Central Stores at \$16. Hongkong Hotels can be placed at \$84. Hongkong Lands have eased down to 57, at which rate sales have been effected. Humphrey's Estates are obtainable at \$13. Shanghai Lands have changed hands at Tls. 117.

Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons are again on offer at \$3. Ewes have declined to Tls. 110. According to latest mail advices from Shanghai just to hand, changes in other Northern Mills are as follows:—Internationals—Tls. 95. Lau Kung Mow—Tls. 112. buyers. Soy Chee—Tls. 410 buyers.

Miscellaneous.—China Borneos have again been dealt in at \$11.30 and there are more buyers at the rate. Green Island Cements have again found buyers at \$8.00. Hongkong Electric have been sold at \$19 1/2, closing with more inquiries at the latter rate. Watsons have been sold at \$2, while William Powells have further inquiries at \$1. In the North, Samatras have suffered a severe decline with sellers at Tls. 135, while Langkats have taken a sudden jump to Tls. 900 buyers.

Exchange.—The Bank's selling rate on London is 1/8 15/16 on demand. The 7/2 rate on Shanghai is 74 1/2.

Dividends Payable.—Yangtze's, Final of \$10 for 1907 and interim of \$5 for 1908, making in all \$15 per share for 1908, payable in Shanghai on the 17th April. Hongkong Electric's dividend of \$1 and 3/4 of 30 cents per share

Today's Advertisements.

THE DRAPERY EMPORIUM,

7, Lyndhurst Terrace.

ALWAYS IN STOCK.

EUROPEAN, INDIAN AND CHINESE.

USEFUL ARTICLES.

CLOTHING, FANCY GOODS

and TOYS

AT

VERY NORMAL RATES.

READY FOR SALE.

The Latest Style Goods for Present Season Gentlemen's and Children's.

HATS, BONNETS (Hat Flowers), RIBBONS, LACE, BRIDAL VEILS,

FANCY DRESS GOODS, MUSLINS,

LAWNS, NAINSOOKS, SHIRTINGS, ALPACCAS, HOSIERY,

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN FOOTWEARS, &c., &c.

Prices and Samples on application.

Best attention to all Coast Port Orders.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1909. [346]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

The Undersigned have received instructions to sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION.

FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED,

ON MONDAY,

the 19th April, 1909, at 11 A.M., at their

Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Voeux Road, corner of Ice House Street.

A QUANTITY OF

FANCY SATIN, MUSLINS, LACE CURTAINS, CRETONE, TABLE COVERS,

BLOUSES, SKIRTS, UNDERSKIRTS, SATIN QUILTS, TRAY CLOTHS,

EMBROIDERED TOP SHEETS, BEDSPREADS, TABLE CLOTHS AND SERVIENTS, GENTS AND LADY'S HANDKERCHIEFS,

AND

An Assortment of PERFUMES, &c.

ALSO

A Special Assortment of LADIES' TRIMMED HATS, Latest Style and up-to-date shape, and a few CHILDREN'S SILK HATS.

(The Hats will only be on view on the morning of the sale).

TERMS.—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1909. [347]

for 1908, payable on the 24th April. Unions, Final of \$17 for 1907 and interim of \$30 for 1908, making in all \$47 per share payable on the 1st April.

Forward Settlements.—The following dates have been fixed by the Stockbrokers' Association of Hongkong for Forward Settlements:—

April Settlement 29th April.

May " 31st May.

June " 29th June.

July " 30th July.

August " 30th August.

September " 29th September.

THE STRINGENCY AT TIENTSIN.

OFFER OF HELP BY THE VICEROY.

Peking, April 9.

It is reported that Viceroy Yuan Shu-hau, of Chihli, has offered to advance Tls. 1,000,000 to relieve the stringency of the money-market at Tientsin, provided that the banks and traders concerned will offer reasonable conditions.

Neither the Government nor the Diplomatic Body is prepared to entertain the proposals recently put forward by the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce, and supported by the German Minister, for the repayment of the traders' losses by a Government loan.—*N. C. D. News.*

JAPANESE COTTON YARN.

ACTIVITY IN SHANGHAI MARKET.

Considerable activity has been shown of late in the market for Japanese cotton yarn in Shanghai. It is attributed by some to the result of the boycott of English goods by the Chinese. This view is repudiated by Mr. Eitaki, the Japanese Consul in Shanghai. The activity of Japanese yarn in Shanghai, says the Consul-General, is mainly due to the recovery from the financial depression and the abundant harvest of wheat and barley in the Yangtze valley. The value of cotton yarn arriving in Shanghai represents about one-third of the total imports of the port. The British representative at the Opium Conference at Shanghai was absolutely opposed to the proposal of the Chinese Government to monopolise the opium trade. This appears to have in some way offended the Chinese, but the matter was only slight and cannot be taken as the cause of the increased import of Japanese yarn. The season for the importation of Japanese yarn is from April to October. The increased activity in the yarn trade results from extensive importation in anticipation of a successful harvest of wheat, while the silver exchange, at 85 taels, serves as another impulse. Consequently the activity of Japanese yarn in Shanghai cannot be by any means ascribed to the Chinese boycott of English goods. It is nothing but the working of a natural law in trade.—*Open Column*

Public Companies.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that the THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING of the Society will be held at its Head Office, No. 2, Queen's Buildings, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 21st April, 1909, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, together with statements of Accounts, to 31st December, 1908, and of declaring dividends, &c.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Society will be CLOSED from 11th April to the 21st April, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board.

C. MONTAGUE EDE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 21st March, 1909.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Society will be held at its Head Office, No. 2, Queen's Buildings, Victoria, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 21st April, 1909, at 12.15 P.M., for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following Special Resolution:—

"That the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society be respectively extended, altered and amended so as to read as shown in the print signed for the purpose of identification by the Chairman of this Meeting and that such extended, altered and amended Memorandum and Articles of Association be henceforth adopted as the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society to the exclusion of those heretofore prevailing."

Should the above Special Resolution be duly passed, it will be subsequently submitted for confirmation to a further Extraordinary General Meeting, of which Notice will be hereafter given.

Prints of the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association can be seen at the Society's Offices or obtained on application there.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

C. MONTAGUE EDE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 7th April, 1909. [348]

COMMERCIAL.

TO-DAY'S EXCHANGE.

London-Bank T.T.	178 1/2
Do. demand	178 1/2
Do. 4 months sight	178 1/2
France-Bank T.T.	178 1/2
Do. demand	178 1/2
Do. 4 months sight	178 1/2
Germany-Bank T.T.	178 1/2
Do. demand	178 1/2
Do. 4 months sight	178 1/2
Japan-Bank T.T.	178 1/2
Do. demand	178 1/2
Do. 4 months sight	178 1/2

Shipping.

4 months sight L/O.	178 1/2
6 months sight L/O.	178 1/2
30 days sight San Francisco & New York	178 1/2
4 months sight do.	178 1/2
30 days sight Sydney & Melbourne	178 1/2
4 months sight France	178 1/2
6 months sight do.	178 1/2
4 months sight Germany	178 1/2
6 months sight do.	178 1/2
Bar Silver	178 1/2
Bank of England rate	178 1/2
Sovereign	178 1/2

OPIMUM QUOTATIONS.

To-day's quotations are as follows:	
Malwa New	1,270/1,000
Old	1,100/1,100
Older	1,150/1,100
Oldest	1,150/1,100

SHIPPING AND MAILS.

MAILS DUE.

Indian (Kumang) 22nd inst.	
German (Derflinger) 22nd inst.	

The C. N. Co.'s s.s. *Chinkia* left Shanghai on 15th inst., and may be expected here on 18th inst.

The I. C. S. N. Co.'s s.s. *Kumang* from Calcutta and the Straits left Singapore for this port on 15th inst.

The P. M. S. Co.'s s.s. *Arabia* left Moji on 15th inst., between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., and may be expected here on 20th inst., instead of the 22nd inst.

The C. P. R. Co.'s s.s. *Empress of Japan* arrived at Nagasaki at 7.30 a.m., on 15th inst., and left again at 3 p.m. same day, for Kobe, where she is due to arrive at 7 p.m., on 16th inst.

THE WEATHER.

The following report is from Mr. F. G. Figs., Director of the Hongkong Observatory:

On the 16th at 11.55 a.m. The depression noted yesterday is moving into the Pacific to the North of Hokkaido, and pressure has increased rapidly over S. Japan.

The barometer has risen moderately in S. China, but has fallen again over N. China. A new depression is probably developing over the Upper Yangtze.

The area of high pressure lies now over the Yellow Sea.

N.E. and E. winds decreasing in force, may be expected in the Formosa Channel and along the northern shores of the China Sea.

Hongkong Rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.5 inches.

FORECAST DISTRICT.

1.—Hongkong and Neighbourhood, R. winds, strong to moderate; fair, cloudy.

2.—Formosa Channel, N.E. and E. winds, strong to moderate.

3.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Luchow, same as No. 1.

4.—South coast of China between Hongkong and Waiwan, same as No. 1.

Shipping.

Arrivals.

Empress of China, Br. s.s. 3,046, R. Archibald, 16th April—Vanuatu, B.C. 25th Mar. and Shanghai 15th, Mails and Geo. —C. P. R. Co.

Nippon Maru, Jap. s.s. 3,452, W. E. Filmer, 16th April—San Francisco 15th Mar. and Manila 15th April, Mails and Geo. —T. K. K.

Haiman, Br. s.s. 636, J. W. Evans, 16th April—Swatow 15th April, Gen.—D. L. & Co.

Kwanglo, Chl. s.s. 1,468, Froberg, 16th April—Canton 15th April, Gen.—M. S. N. Co.

Hanyang, Br. s.s. 1,270, Trowbridge, 16th April—Canton 15th April, Gen.—B. & S.

Anhui, Br. s.s. 1,350, J. Mestrel, 16th April—Canton 15th April, Gen.—B. & S.

Wakamatsu Maru, Jap. s.s. 1,732, M. Aikawa, 16th April—Wakamatsu 10th April, Coal.—M. B. K.

Derantha, Br. s.s. 4,000, Wm. Hayward, 16th April—Shanghai 15th April, Mails and Geo.—P. & O. S. N. Co.

Tan, Br. s.s. 1,346, A. W. Osterbridge, 6th April—Manila 15th April, Gen.—B. & S.

Glenloch, Br. s.s. 2,997, E. J. Biallard, 16th April—Singapore 10th April, Gen.—McC. Bros. & Co.

Samsen, Ger. s.s. 998, Pedersen, 16th April—Bangkok 9th April, Rice.—B. & S.

Clearances at the Harbour Office.

Lockhart, for Bangkok.

Standard, for Hongkong.

Wakamatsu Maru, for Kobe.

Kwanglo, for Shanghai.

Hanyang, for Nagasaki.

Derantha, for Manila.

Silvia, for Shanghai.

Kwikow, for Canton.

Derantha, for Singapore.

Departures.

April 16.

Attain, for Shanghai.

Kumang Maru, for Australian Ports.

Hanyang, for Coast Ports.

Lanau Schiff, for Chiklaung.

Glenloch, for Hongkong.

Hanyang, for Chiklaung.

Lockhart, for Bangkok.

Standard, for Hongkong.

Kwikow, for Canton.

Derantha, for Manila.

Wakamatsu Maru, for Japan.

DOCK RETURNS.

HONGKONG AND SHANTOU DOCK.

Tianjin.

Chow.

Empress of China.

Tjilow.

Ships Passed The Canal.

9th March—Aragonia, Benavente, China.

(Adv.) Bombay Maru, Ernest Simon, Sydney.

Nanyang, Tancor, 12th March—Faria, Yang.

Tate, Denatlon, Peru, Polymat, 16th.

March—Benavon, Glenavon, Slatia, (Gen.).

Glenloch, Kenebec, 19th March—Bulwer.

Lanau Schiff, Glaucon, Idomeneus, Prince Rupert.

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Swatow and Bangkok—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Shanghai—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Singapore—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Batavia, Cebu, Samarang, Sourabaya and Macassar—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Shanghai—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Singapore—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Canton—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Swatow, Amoy and Fuzhou—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Bangkok—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Manila—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Cebu—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Swatow, Singapore and Bangkok—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Europe, India, via Taitoria—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Swatow, Teluk, Weihai, Chefoo and Tientsin—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Swatow, Weihai, Tientsin and Tientsin—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Yokohama—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Shanghai—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Amoy, Manila, Cebu, Batavia, Samarang, Sourabaya and Macassar—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Manila, Y. P. F. Wilhelmshafen, Simpson, hafen, Samarang, Herberthshafen, Matupi, Brisbane, Sydney, Hobart, Launceston, New Zealand, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Fremantle and Dunedin—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Shanghai, Nagasaki, Kobe, Yokohama, Honolulu and San Francisco—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

SHANGHAI AND SIBERIA (Mail to Europe)—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

Manila, Y. P. F. Wilhelmshafen, Simpson, hafen, Samarang, Herberthshafen, Matupi, Brisbane, Sydney, Hobart, Launceston, New Zealand, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Fremantle and Dunedin—Per Fitts, 16th April, 9 a.m.

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